



Rapping in a
local tongue

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historic march

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Swine flu, stay out!



The number of sick people around the world is climbing, but China learned valuable lessons from its bout with SARS in 2003 and periodic outbreaks of avian flu: lessons which have kept it off the list of infected countries.

There are no reported cases of swine flu on the mainland, and the government has stepped up prevention to keep it that way as long as possible. Local authorities are being ordered to produce more flu vaccines, protective gauze masks, sterilizing agents and breathing machines, and to educate the public about prevention.

Kindergarten students in Huaibei, Anhui Province, were reminded to avoid contact with sick people and crowded places, to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and to wash their hands frequently.

Learn how China is keeping swine flu out on Page 2
CFP Photo

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Beijing-London
horseback
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revives a
lost temple

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More stolen relics sent to Paris for auction

By Venus Lee

A new auction of a Qianlong-era (1736-1795) white jade seal may earn Paris a reputation as the place to purchase stolen cultural treasures if its Friday auction is successful, the *Wenhui Daily* reported.

Its auction is being organized by Beaussant Lefevre, the French auction house handling an antique collection that belonged to the late General de Vassoigne, who led the French army in raiding Yuanmingyuan, the imperial gardens.

The seal, once part of a Yuanmingyuan collection, is one of many relics stolen by Anglo-French forces that attacked during the Second Opium War in 1860.

The Yuanmingyuan Management Office has again issued a statement condemning the auction and calling for the return of ill-gotten relics. "This auction is a clear violation of international law. Ownership of all looted

Yuanmingyuan relics belongs to China, and that is not negotiable," it said.

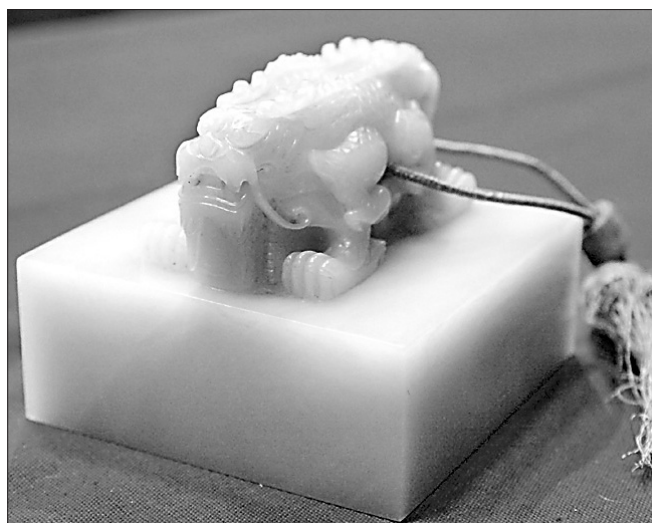
"We have always opposed the auction of Yuanmingyuan relics. Their sale mars the historical and cultural values of the pieces, and is an insult to the Chinese people," Yang Laiyun, a spokesman for the Yuanmingyuan Management Office, said.

According to the auction house's Web site, the jade seal has two dragons entwined atop a square base. Its engraved face reads "Jiu zhou qing an zhi bao," translated as "Peace and tranquility in the land."

The seal could attract bids of up to €300,000 (2.7 million yuan), according to estimates.

Christie's Paris auction house drew the wrath of the country nine weeks ago when it auctioned off two heads stolen from the garden's Zodiac fountain: the rat and the rabbit.

Supporters made repeated



The seal auction marks another PR disaster for France. CFP Photo

legal attempts to halt the auction, but French courts threw out the cases.

Cai Mingchao, a Chinese antique collector, won the February 25 auction with a bid of €31.49 million (286 million

yuan). He refused to pay when he learned government regulations would make it impossible for him to receive the pieces here. He has since dropped out of the auction, having lost the confidence of his peers.

From tricycle driver to Fudan PhD

By Wang Yu

Getting into a PhD program generally requires two things: a sparkling academic record and money.

Cai Wei, Fudan University's latest candidate, has neither.

The Shanghai university added the 38-year-old laid off worker to its enrollment list for the semester beginning this fall. Cai's education ended at age 18 when he failed the college entrance exams. He turned to a Jinzhou, Liaoning Province factory for work, but was sacked in 1994.

For the last 15 years, Cai has scraped out a living. He was working as a tricycle driver for the last eight months before he was accepted.

Qiu Xigui, a professor at Fudan University and prestigious scholar of ancient documents, endorsed Cai's application. The two have corresponded for 10 years. Cai, who grew up in a typical blue collar family, has been interested in ancient records for years. He began to study on his own in 1995, and wrote to Qiu to discuss academic questions.

He began to publish his research online in 2003. "He didn't write much, but he was extremely meticulous. Some of his ideas inspired me," Qiu said.

The professor suggested Cai take the post-graduate's entrance exam, but Cai never learned enough English. But Qiu was unwilling to let that stop his development. "Cai's understanding is a level above what you find in most college professors. His specialization in certain areas exceeds my own," Qiu said.

He does not know exactly how Cai's research can be used, but said people who throw themselves into one academic area are necessary for the development of core subjects and culture.

But without even a bachelor's degree, Cai's acceptance by Fudan University is problematic. The country's academic system requires applicants hold a master's degree. Gu Yunshen, vice dean of Fudan University's Graduate School, negotiated with the Ministry of Education on Cai's behalf.

Since 2000, the university has allowed academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering and reputable scholars, like Qiu, to select students for exemption from the exams.

While the exams may be the fairest way to select students, Gu said the comprehensive system works against people whose genius is limited to one field. He advocated allowing PhD program supervisors to select some students for admission.

Briton selected as community's labor model

By Zheng Lu

Residents of Ju'er Hutong in Dongcheng district had a surprising name on this year's list of model workers: James Philip.

Philip, a 42-year-old British national, was selected along with six other candidates from a pool of community members nominated by the neighborhood. Voters were asked to consider the workers' performance, attendance of community activities and their relationship with their neighbors.

"James often volunteers to help his neighbors and the other residents in our hutong," Li Jin, director of the Jin'er Hutong residents' committee, said. "He teaches the neighborhood English for free. Nearly all his students are old people who have no background in a foreign language."

He described the Briton as a warm-hearted member of the community, and said his free English lessons before last year's Olympics left a deep impression.

Philip also attends traditional festival activities in the hutong. "He made pies for residents on Christmas and made dumplings with them on the weekends," he said.

Despite working as a media editor, he finds time to be part of the neighborhood. His fluent Chinese likely played no small role in being selected, since communication made integration into the commu-



James Philip said he was honored Beijing awarded labor model of Ju Er Hutong.

Photo provided by Li Jin

nity easier.

"He is an open and bright person, and I enjoyed living next to him for the last three years," a woman surnamed Cao, who lives next door to Philip, said.

But Philip was absent at the award ceremony, having left a day earlier for a business trip to Qingdao, Shandong Province. He received his certificate of merit and red flower from the community committee on

Monday, and told the director he was honored to be named a model worker. "He said May Day is also important in his home country, and model workers there are also recognized," Li said.

Generation of jockeys waits to race



The Orient Lucky City racetrack in Wuhan is at the front lines of a struggle to revive China's racing culture.

CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

Playing the ponies, declared "immoral" and a "social evil," has been outlawed on the mainland since the founding of New China in 1949.

But the first officially sanctioned bets in more than half a century may soon be placed in Wuhan, Hebei Province, which held a trial run on its new racetrack last November.

With all necessary equipment and facilities in place, the racetrack is only waiting for official approval.

Jockey's shaky future

No one is more eager for licensing approval than Dong Min, a 19-year-old woman studying horse racing and management at Wuhan Commercial Service College.

Dong was among the first group of students who enrolled in the new major last year to learn about the horse racing industry. The major was arranged by the Wuhan Sports Association, the Wuhan Jockey Club and the college, and is the first training project for the country's horse racing industry.

"Horse racing is a tradition in Wuhan. I loved it when I was a little girl," Dong, a Wuhan native, says. When she found out about the new major, she turned down a letter of acceptance from Wuhan University, one of the nation's top schools, to become a jockey.

Courses include event management and planning, equine care and jockey training, the college's sporting department says.

Dong is excited about the chance to become a successful jockey. "I hope the gambling business will start soon so my friends and family can bet on me in the races."

But she and her 93 classmates are playing dice with their futures.

In past decades, gambling on horse races was deemed an immoral vice of the masses and stamped out in the name of social stability. All forms of gambling have been banned for 60 years.

When the first horse galloped past the finish line of Orient Lucky City's racetrack last November at the 6th China Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival, it

seemed like a significant step toward tapping the nation's thirst for high stakes.

Trial race revives hope

Xia Yunjian, dean of the sports department at the Wuhan Commercial Service College, still feels excited when he recalls last November's race. "This was a first experiment for China to commercialize horse racing," he says. "Organizers offered prize money for every horse race, and spectators were allowed to bet on horses and share in the prize for the first time."

Technically, nobody paid to bet on the races. Spectators were allowed to place bets for free. Winners were issued 20 instant scratch-off tickets by the organizer.

Xia says he attended the race and won 12 yuan from the scratch-off tickets. "It's not for the money. The point is that such an event boosts spectator interest and encourages public participation," he says.

The test run was a preparation for an official event in the future. "If approved, horse races will be held as regular events," Xia says. But when it will get the official stamp is unknown to even university organizers.

Media reports say the government will issue a new license for the business in September, but a source with the China General Administration of Sport, which is in charge of the lottery, said there are no plans to extend a third lottery license.

The administration issued its first license to the welfare lottery in 1987; the second license was extended to the sports lottery in 1994.



Students are excited to be jockeys.

CFP Photo

Orient Lucky Horse Group, the racetrack owned by Hong Kong tycoon Jacky Wu, lauded the rare test run but was cautious about the future. Wu's group has seen other racing operations quashed when the government decided gambling had gone "too far."

"The equipment and support facilities are as good as what they have in Hong Kong," Hu Xueming, media manager of the Orient Lucky City Club, said. "We hope the government will give a green light to commercial horse betting."

Hu said the group spent 1.5 billion yuan to build the equestrian racetrack in Wuhan. Orient Lucky City sprawls over a square kilometer and is China's largest breeding base with 2,000 horses. The track has seating for 30,000 spectators.

Wuhan has been the center of Chinese horse racing for more than a century. It began to investigate opening a new track in 2005. The central government approved regular races last year, and later agreed to introduce betting on a trial basis.

Divided on gambling

Responses to the new gambling operation have been mixed.

Though a horse lottery would be an effective way to raise money, and the new industry could play a role in seeing the country through the global economic downturn, China lacks experience in managing gambling, says Xie Ming, director of the Department of Public Relations under the SSGA.

Xie told a recent press briefing that the government only allows randomly picked, computerized lotteries and customers can only win by luck, rather than by observing rules.

"Social stability is paramount. If we move quickly to support gambling, it could result in social unrest," Xie says.

But economic experts are more open-minded than government officials.

"We (the government and the society) should rethink the word 'gambling,'" says Zhao Xiao, a professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing. "It is not a negative phenomenon, but a unique financial tool that can raise money for welfare services and increase the country's tax revenue."

Zhao says a nationwide gambling network could create 3 million jobs and annual lottery sales could reach 100 billion yuan, which would yield 40 billion yuan in taxes.

The professor suggests the central government learn from Hong Kong and developed countries and start a few experimental gambling operations in the country's most developed areas.

"Wuhan might be the option," he says.

But for Dong, who staked her higher education on the racing industry, Wuhan is the only option. "Wuhan is China's historic center of racing and we want that status back. All we are waiting on is a piece of paper," she says.

Why Americans are adopting fewer kids from China



A US couple play with their adopted Chinese daughters. Recent years have seen a decline in Chinese adoptions by foreign parents. CFP Photo

Becky Freer says adopting a 10-month-old girl from China was the best thing she ever did. So when Freer, a 44-year-old resident of Austin, Texas, recently decided to further expand her family by adopting a sister for her now 3-year-old daughter, she thought China was the obvious choice.

But as a single woman, Freer is no longer eligible. "Three years ago I was an acceptable parent, and now I'm not," she says. "It seems kind of unfair."

While her daughter will have a new sister – Freer has since been approved to adopt a child from Ethiopia – Freer is one of a growing number of prospective parents unable to adopt under new laws that took effect in May 2007.

The stricter guidelines, intended to limit the overwhelming number of applicants to the country's well-regarded adoption program, have been effective – adoptions by US citizens have dropped 50 percent, according to

US State Department records.

The new regulations require, among other things, that adoptive parents be married, under 50, not classified as clinically obese, not on antidepressant medications in the past two years, free of facial deformities and meet certain educational and economic requirements.

In 2005, US citizens adopted 7,906 children through the state-run China Center for Adoption Affairs (CCAA). In 2008, that number fell to 3,909 kids.

Expert view

The new laws are only part of the reason that fewer Chinese children are being adopted by US families. While the Chinese government does not release domestic adoption figures, US-based adoption agencies say more Chinese children are being adopted in China.

"You have this cultural shift along with the economic shift, where more and more people cannot only afford to adopt a child, but culturally it's more accepted," says Cory Barron, foundation director at Children's Hope International, an international adoption agency.

Historically, adoption was neither socially acceptable nor a viable economic option for many families in China. But orphanages were getting crowded, prompting the government to open up to international adoptions in 1992.

Josh Zhong, founder and director of Chinese Children Adoption International in Colorado, remembers what it was like in China just 10 years ago. "You would see hundreds of thousands of children," he says. "Orphanages begging you to come in, saying, 'Please

help us. These children need a home.'"

A slow shift in gender perception may also be playing a role. While girls still make up 95 percent of children at orphanages, Zhong says that, too, has changed. "People's attitude toward having girls is changing dramatically," he says. "I have friends [in China] who have girls, and they are just so excited."

With fewer children being put up for adoption and foreign demand remaining strong, China can afford to be more selective. "I think they are saying, You know what? We have fewer children now and so we are looking for better parents," Zhong says.

His organization has experienced a drop from 1,152 China adoptions in 2005 to 422 in 2008. And while the Chinese government's new standards may sound harsh to US citizens whose hearts are set on a baby, they have little influence in the matter.

"These are China's children, and they can set the requirements to what they deem best," Barron says.

(Time Magazine)



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Nation's economy can't recover in isolation

China cannot turn around its export-driven economy in isolation, and needs the rest of the world, especially the US, to grow with it, a top official said Tuesday.

Aggressive monetary and fiscal policies put in place over the past few months are supporting the economy, but the "current improvement is not solid," Chen Deming, the minister of commerce, said.

"We still see some instability," including the lack of a nota-

ble increase in private sector investment, Chen said in response to questions after a speech to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

The central bank has slashed interest rates five times since last September to the current 5.31 percent on the benchmark one-year yuan lending rate, and it announced in November a major fiscal stimulus package, estimated at nearly 4 trillion yuan over two years.

Some of the new programs are aimed at spurring domestic

consumption. Still, "without the world economy, without the US economy improving, it's impossible for the Chinese economy to improve on its own," Chen said.

"The US dollar as a main currency for international trade has many deficiencies, but the settlement of international trade will mainly be transacted in US dollars," he said, without elaborating on those "deficiencies."

The minister said countries must commit to free trade even when economies are struggling.

"Some countries" are taking a two-faced approach to trade by decrying protectionism while at the same time instituting protectionist trade measures, he said.

For the US in particular, "we hope that the US government can tell its people that further liberalization of trade will be crucial for the restoration of the US economy," he said.

For now, though, "we need to tackle the lack of liquidity" still at work in credit markets, he said.

(Agencies)

Wal-Mart's reshuffle plan falters

US retail giant Wal-Mart Stores halted a plan to reshuffle its mid-level executives in China after local trade unions stepped in, a law official with the Changchun municipal federation of trade unions said Monday.

"Three mid-level executives came to my office this morning and told me the plan was shelved and they have resumed their work," said Yang Fengzhi, director of the law department of the northeastern city's federation of trade unions.

Mou Mingming, Wal-Mart's spokesman, told Xinhua Monday that the company was communicating with local trade unions to explain the plan to its employees in detail.

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, on April 10 offered three options to executives: transfer, demotion or suspension.

"Wal-Mart is a company that is still growing, and we expect experienced executives to work in new stores to guarantee quality service," she said.

The options were offered to 54 managers and officers working under the managers, according to Yang Zhongtian, an officer on the list in Wal-Mart's Linhejie chain store in Changchun, Jilin Province. Wal-Mart employs 1,500 workers in the city.

"The company actually wants us to leave," said Yang Zhongtian, "because few will find the first two options unacceptable." He said the plan might put at least 2,100 mid-level executives like himself out of work.

The trade union played a positive role in helping settle the issue, a spokesman for the Federation of Trade Unions in Shenzhen, the headquarters of Wal-Mart in China, said.

(Agencies)

ATP World Tour eyes China market

By Huang Daohen

The nation has become a source of further marketing and business success for industries amid the economic crisis, this time with the men's World Pro Tour.

A new Chinese-language ATP World Tour Web site went online Tuesday, marking the China launch of the 2009 ATP World Tour.

"My expectations for China are very high, and I am grateful we're here," Brad Drewett, CEO of ATP's international group, said at a press conference held in the 798 Art District.

"I am very fortunate (to be) here. I understand China has slowed down like the rest of the world, but you still have growth," he said.

According to the China Tennis Association (CTA), the number of people playing tennis in China has risen to 8.12 million since 2004, partly inspired by international tennis events like Tennis Masters Cup Shanghai and China Open.

"With so many Chinese tennis fans, now is the perfect time for us to launch the Chinese language ATP World Tour Web site and to reach an even wider audience," he said, adding that the Chinese



ATP started its China tour Tuesday.

Photo by James Huang

site will add a mix of attributes, including live streaming, localized content and eventually public forums for chatting, blogging and online shopping.

Drewett said the ATP World Tour remains in good shape despite the crisis. This is largely attributed to the sport's huge popularity worldwide. Bringing

China into the camp of world tennis is a significant strategic move, he added.

The two biggest metropolises, Beijing and Shanghai, will host the ATP 500, a top-level tournament with a prize purse valued at US \$2 million (13.6 million yuan), and the ATP 1000, an event second only to the Grand Slams,

within two weeks of each other in October. China is just one of three countries to host both an ATP 500 and ATP 1000, along with the US and Spain.

Both tournaments have signed local and overseas sponsors, and the association itself also inked a deal with sportswear maker Li-Ning.

Migrant money being consumed, not invested

By Huang Daohen

For decades, many Chinese migrant workers have left for other countries to support their families at home. But despite the billions these workers send home, their communities have been slow to develop – especially in the current economy, said Angela Heng, regional vice president of Western Union's Asia Pacific Corporate Affairs.

"One would assume the billions being sent home are lifting communities out of poverty. Unfortunately, things are not that simple," Heng said.

Money sent home by overseas workers appears used for individual consumption – to pay for housing, food and education, according



Angela Heng

to a recent study by the Economist Intelligence Unit and sponsored by Western Union, a leader in global money transfer services.

While such spending does have a secondary effect on the local economy, the study found more could be achieved if migrant money were invested in boosting

community productive power.

If the money is to have a real impact in fighting poverty, it must move beyond the economics of individuals and families to support villages, towns and cities, Heng said. "One way to achieve this would be for overseas workers to pool their funds into collective donations that would benefit their home community."

Heng hailed Mexico's "Four plus One" program. Under the program, for each dollar migrants put in a fund, the federal, state and local governments of Mexico contribute three dollars more, with Western Union adding another dollar, she said.

So far, US \$5 million (34 million yuan) has gone to creating

thousands of jobs in agriculture, tourism, IT and other industries in four Mexican states, she said.

However, Heng said the practice was not widespread and the key to promoting pools relies on the cooperation of migrants, their families and the government.

According to the World Bank, China became the second largest recipient of money from its nationals working overseas in 2007, receiving US \$25.7 billion in remittances.

"China has a great potential and that's why I came here five years ago," Heng said, "Western Union decided to make China a key strategic market and my role has been to build a team and develop the talent that exists here."

RiskMetrics' move signals rising risk awareness

RiskMetrics, a global provider of risk management and corporate governance services, will open its first office in China, a move that underscores rising awareness of the discipline in the country.

The New York-listed group, which also provides financial research and analysis, does not have an office in Hong Kong or Taiwan and has to date largely covered Chinese-related business out of Singapore.

With the domestic economy dominated by the state and its interests, the notion of corporate governance and the rights of minority shareholders remain under-developed compared to in Western economies.

Foreign participation in the domestic stock market is negligible, and the RiskMetrics office will initially serve as a research and development center and base to recruit talent from leading universities.

However, RiskMetrics expects its Beijing office to offer a full range of the group's services during the next 12 to 18 months.

(Agencies)

No play while at work

20 Shanghai businesses vow to fire workers who play games, socialize online

By Jin Zhu

At least 20 enterprises in Shanghai are joining forces to crack down on employees who play games online and visit social networking sites while on the clock. The plan, revealed in a joint statement last weekend, involves all 20 companies firing two to 15 staff members who refuse to reform.

The businesses are determined to uncover what they call "online losers" – workers who spend more than two hours a day entertaining themselves through Internet games and online communities, which are not what they are paid to do.

"Logging in to social networking sites and playing online games is not easily discovered, since they could be mistaken as regular work on the Internet. Such activities have sharply increased with the financial crisis, since people are feeling greater pressure at work," said Huang Xiangru, general manager of 8pima.com in Shanghai, one of the members of the alliance.

"Looking for a way to relax when an employee experiences great pressure at work is reasonable. However, they are not allowed to enjoy themselves on addictive games and social networking Web sites.

After all, a company is not an Internet cafe. Meting out punishments to 'online losers' is necessary," he said.

Domestic social networking sites like QQ space, Xiaonei and Kaixin.com, which fashioned themselves after Facebook and MySpace, have a huge following. Kaixin.com, which was launched last May, has already become the country's biggest online community.

Besides the usual features of social networking sites, Kaixin.com features addictive games like "friend sales," in which the more a member is "brought" by friends, the more his or her value

goes up.

"I log in and check my page before work starts, during the day and again at the end of work," Sun Qing, a Beijing office worker, said. "Buying friends and voting in online polls are distressing activities when I'm at work. It has become a mode for emotional sustenance."

The alliance of businesses said in its statement it plans to invite more companies, especially in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, to join up. Members are also looking for technology to help them control their employees' undesirable online activities.

Comment

Only an excuse to downsize staff

Creating a new word like "online losers" is just a new excuse for supervisors to reduce their staff. With the current financial crisis, business and the number of clients have greatly shrunk. There is no need to spend so much time working. Except for logging into social networking sites and playing online games, what else can we do? This is a psychological war between enterprises and their employees.

– Wang Panfeng, employee in Shanghai

Reasonable, but should not be over the top

A moderate amount of relaxing activities on the Internet, such as scanning news and entertainment sites, are helpful to maintaining high work efficiency among employees. How to strike a balance between working and relaxing at work is the core of this issue.

For businesses, supervision is nec-

essary. However, do not go over the top. If cracking down on "online losers" is meant to teach a lesson, not remove one's livelihood, it will contribute to maintaining workers' enthusiasm and efficiency.

– Linda Wang, HR director in Beijing

Enterprises need to follow regulations

Companies need to follow regulations when they dismiss "online losers."

According to the country's Labor Contract Law, contracts can be rescinded when an employee seriously violates a company's bylaws. However, the precondition is that an enterprise has drawn up bylaws, which have been approved by its labor union or congress of workers and staff. If not, dismissing a "loser" is illegal.

– Qiu Jie, professor of Labor Contract Law in Renmin University of China

No more media hype on celebrity scandals

By Huang Daohen

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) has banned media publicity of celebrity scandals, marking another effort "towards cleaning up the media and society," the *Beijing News* reported Wednesday.

The order follows a nationwide ban last month on Web sites that broadcast unlicensed content. According to SARFT's notice, all entertainment programs and talk shows are prohibited from discussing celebrity scandals.

It said radio and television stations should not invite celebrities currently involved in scandals or who have criminal records. Programs are also forbidden from using celebrity gossip as their main marketing tool.

Any radio or TV station found to be in violation of the order will be held accountable, starting with the head of the program, it said.

The notice, handed down in mid-April, is thought by many in the industry to be a direct response to a cable TV station's interview with Hong Kong actress Gillian Chung. Chung explained during the interview why she returned to show business after last year's nude photo scandal involving Edison Chen.

The interview was originally scheduled to broadcast in mid-April, but has somehow been delayed.

Staff at local television stations confirmed that censorship has tightened. Guests from Hong Kong and Taiwan, they say, are finding it difficult to secure a passport, and the process becomes even more complicated when celebrities are involved.



SARFT says the media can no longer report on celebrity scandals like Gillian Chung's nude photo scandal last year involving Edison Chen.

CFP Photo

Comment

Refine the concept

The concept of "negative celebrities" needs to be carefully thought over. Every celebrity has a lengthy personal history, full of ups and downs, so if a universal standard is applied, then lots of people will be unable to appear on-screen.

– Xu Jing, TV program producer in Shanghai

Timely policy

It's a timely policy as a response to current scandals involving celebrities who became part of questionable ads.

– Rui Lee, IT engineer

Right perspective needed

Sensationalism is one technique to get higher ratings. But searching for the truth, giving the audience the information it needs and guiding it in a positive direction is a technique as well. The key is to have the right perspective.

– Roberto Chen, editor, Xinhua New Agency

Restatement of old regulations

TV stations are already supposed to be avoiding celebrity gossip. This is merely a restatement of existing regulations. Pointing out problems by simply reiterating a set of rules won't be very effective.

– Guo Wenjing, commentator

Natural desire to snoop

I've visited many countries and have lived in many different places, and I can say that people everywhere have an insatiable thirst to know about celebrities' private lives.

If this is particularly about Gillian Chung, then I think it's unfortunate, since her career was ruined and she is trying to rebuild it – which she should at least have the right to attempt.

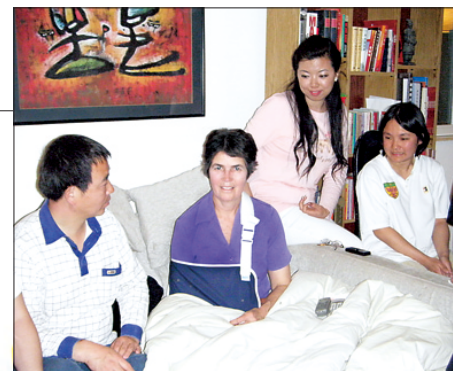
– Bill, netizen on danwei.org

Beijing - London horseback odyssey on hold



Megan Lewis (middle) gives wings to her dreams with an Olympian odyssey on horseback.

Photo provided by Ku Bi



Megan is recuperating at the home of one of her friends in Beijing. Photo by Jin Zhu

YouTube 'face dancer' shows Beijingers new moves

By Han Manman

The face can dance, as Japanese new media artist Daito Manabe, 29, showed Beijingers at The Village in Sanlitun last weekend.

He wired up electrodes to his face, and put on some music, to whose rhythm electrical pulses were transmitted to the surface of his face. The mild electrocution resulted in facial twitching and distorted expressions that elicited laughter from spectators.

Daito, who is also a computer programmer, designed the "face visualizer" with multimedia software Max/MSP in Tokyo four years ago. He shot a video of his "face dance," then posted it on YouTube. A few months and a million hits later, Daito became an international celebrity.

"One of my friends assembled the device. It works by sending music, which I compose myself on my computer, through electrodes that are attached to my face," Daito said, adding that he put the video on YouTube to show friends.

"I never imagined it would create such a buzz. Since then, I've been invited to do it live



Daito Manabe (left) wired up for his "face dance." CFP Photo

at a Tokyo festival, it's been shown at an exhibition in New York and blogs all over the world have talked about it," he said.

Daito could be raking in money through this new form of musical performance, not to mention getting compensation for the pain he goes through each time. But he always does it for free.

"I'm not looking to make any money from the project. I earn a living from programming and composing music for theatrical performances," he said.

The organizers of the Sanlitun show said they initially

planned to invite some in the audience to participate in Daito's face dance. But the Japanese artist said the performance could be very painful; during one show overseas, a participant fainted. The organizers said Daito himself cannot bear being wired to the machine for more than 15 minutes.

To redefine existing media and technologies, Daito has been involved in art, design and research and development. He creates sounds and images by analyzing, then transforming, numerical values generated by various sensors and input devices.

By Jin Zhu

Welsh equestrienne Megan Lewis, 60, who is traveling from Beijing to London on horseback, suffered a major setback Monday, when she fell from her horse eight days after her journey began April 19.

The 8,000-kilometer trip was envisioned as a message of goodwill from Beijing to London, the host of the next summer Olympics in 2012. It was also a means to raise funds for disadvantaged children, together with Schoolchildren for Children, a charity that aids schools in developing countries and encourages young people in the UK to be more physically active.

"If everything had gone well, the ride within China was scheduled to end in November. But since something unexpected happened on Monday, I'm not sure of it now," Li Jing, a Chinese-Russian adventurer who accompanied Lewis, said.

The accident happened when Lewis and Li, another Chinese rider, arrived in Guyuan, Hebei Province. "Just like that, the horse got spooked by its surroundings and threw down Lewis, who didn't have any protection," Li said.

A doctor at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital said Lewis fractured her collar bone and four ribs, and a three-month rest was probably needed.

"Although it is a spirited and stubborn horse, it is one of my

favorites. Maybe it regrets its mistake now. I hope to talk to it when I recover," Lewis said, trying to dismiss her accident with humor.

"I like the feeling of traveling on horseback and taking in the sights at leisure. I still enjoyed myself during the ride," the Welsh endurance rider said.

"Nothing has changed. As soon as I recover, the ride will continue from where I fell," she said.

Lewis' idea of an odyssey on horseback from Beijing to London was born two years ago. "Besides riding for the cause of the Olympics, my great interest in China and Central Asia was also an important reason," she said.

"As much as we could, we avoided industrial and urbanized areas during the ride. It was fantastic seeing parts of China I would never have seen if not for this trip. Since we needed to ensure the health of our four horses, we only covered 50 kilometers each day," Lewis said. "We stayed in local hotels and farmhouses and ate wonderful Chinese food to experience the real China."

During her week on the road, Lewis updated her blog and Web site about the progress of her trip, and shared stories about the things she saw along the way, hoping to raise awareness and funds for the impoverished children and schools she encountered.

From Beijing, her group's original travel route involved heading to Gansu Province, then to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. From there, they meant to cross Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia, passing north of the Caspian and Black seas, through to Europe.

"In remote areas with hardly any people, how to find food and water for the riders and the horses was one of the biggest problems we needed to solve. I want to make better preparations for our ride once I recover from my injuries," Lewis said.

"Anything can happen on such a long ride and I intend to face obstacles with confidence. The ride will not end until we reach our final destination," she said.

Garden and water design for Singapore's 2010 expo pavilion

By Zheng Lu

"Better City, Better Life" is the theme of the 2010 Shanghai Exposition. Few understand this better than Singapore, which has turned itself into a clean, beautiful and efficient city that is the envy of its Southeast Asian neighbors. The design of the city-state's pavilion for the expo next year promises the same attention to comfort and aesthetics.

From the outside, the Singapore pavilion looks like a cross between a music box and a musical fountain, with a roof garden – an interplay of sound and visuals.

Named "Urban Symphony," the structure is supported by four columns and features two floors of differing shapes and sizes, connected by ramps and stairs suspended from trusses. The expo hall, which will take up the area of seven basket balls courts, will be located in the "Oceania and Southeast Asia" area of Pudong – between Shanghai's Nanpu and Lupu bridges along the Huangpu River.

After Singapore agreed last year to participate in the Shanghai expo, the city began soliciting design proposals for its pavilion. After a four-month-

long selection process, the job was given to Singaporean architect Kay Ngee Tan and his team.

"The idea behind 'Urban Symphony' deeply impressed the panel because it matches the theme of the Shanghai World Expo so well," Liu Anjian, assistant director of the Singapore Tourism Board, said. "More importantly, it displays the essence of the urban culture of Singapore." He said the design reflects the harmonious elements of sustainability, urbanization and nature, tradition and modernity, and Singapore's multicultural nature.

The designers say the concept came naturally. "What else could represent the close relationship between Singapore and nature but water and garden?" Tan said, adding that it "incorporates the most traditional elements with the most avant-garde forms."

The fountain on the piazza outside the pavilion will serve as a "prelude." The rising and falling columns of water will also cool down visitors to the summer expo. The pavilion's roof garden, which aims to remind people of life in the



Artist's rendition of the Singapore pavilion

Photo provided by Singapore Embassy

"Garden City," will be clearly seen from a distance, even from Lupu Bridge.

On the small Singapore territory, gardens take up seven percent of the land area. "In Singapore, wherever I go, I can always smell the scent of soil. I feel the close connection between people and nature," Tan said.

Environmental protection and energy-saving considerations were also major factors in the pavilion's design. Tan and his team chose to use recycled materials, such as aluminum plates for the outer walls.

Only the pillars on the first floor will be made of concrete. Slits on the outer walls and a water pool around the building will help cool it down, thus saving on electricity that would have gone on air-conditioners.

"It is known to all that Singapore is not rich in natural resources, so each Singaporean is keenly aware of limited energy resources," Liu of the city-state's tourism board said.

The pavilion's construction is scheduled to begin in July, and it is expected to be completed by April 2010, a month before the expo opens.

US firms in China eye benefit in Beijing stimulus

By Han Manman

Two-thirds of US companies operating in the country hope to benefit from the huge stimulus package unveiled by the government to counter the financial crisis, according to a white paper released by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in China on Monday.

"Two-thirds of US companies in China expect to directly or indirectly benefit from China's 4-trillion yuan stimulus package," the report said.

The chamber called on the government to ensure the package would be open to US businesses, while saying the corresponding US stimulus package should do the same for Chinese enterprises.

"It is important that both the Chinese and American stimulus packages are implemented efficiently and openly to maximize their economic impact," it said.

The white paper, which was based on a survey of more than 400 US firms in China, said the country was still a top investment choice for US businesses, and 22 percent of AmCham members said China was their first global investment destination. Between 75 and 78 percent have ranked the country as a top-three investment destination every year since 2004.

The chamber also said in the white paper that it was worried that protectionist sentiment could rise in both China and the US as the global economy shrinks.

"The risk is higher in an economic downturn" that governments will turn to protectionism, AmCham-China Chairman John Watkins said, adding, "We want to highlight that risk in both countries."

The chamber said China was still crucial as a base for manufacturing and increasingly as a market, but the regulatory environment was still opaque and sometimes does not benefit foreigners.

Watkins said that while China has made strides in opening its domestic economy to foreign investment, there were still areas where domestic players were favored.

"With some of the things going on with 3G and the Chinese standard ... there is clearly a bias toward local producers," said Watkins, who is also the president for Cummins engine manufacturing company in East Asia. "Some of our members are very concerned."

He said AmCham's two main goals in 2009 are to overcome protectionism and improve the implementation of China's regulatory environment.

The chamber's white paper is the most important policy document released by AmCham-China each year. This year's report will be distributed to 2,000 officials and lawmakers in China and the US, with the aim of helping mold policy and foster dialogue in the next 12 months.

Tea culture enchants diplomats



Thirty-four diplomats from 24 countries attended the 2009 International Tea Culture Festival, a tea-tasting event at the Beijing International Tea Market Wednesday on Maliandao. The participants tried China's six major types of tea and watched traditional performances like Sichuan face changing.

By Venus Lee

Brunei architect's fate intertwined with courtyard houses

By Annie Wei

Like many others, Nancy Murphy, from the US, was cycling with her sister and brother-in-law around the *hutongs* in Dongcheng District one sunny spring weekend afternoon.

While biking through Zhangwang Hutong, the trio spotted a tall, wide building and they decided to stop and take a closer look. They were surprised to discover they had stumbled upon an ancient temple.

The temple consisted of three sections that had been restored: the courtyard, which was now covered with a glass roof, had a stone monument

that dated back to the Yuan Dynasty; one of the halls was converted into a theater, while the other was turned into a meeting room.

Murphy, a senior partner at Beijing law firm Jincheng Tongda & Neal, first came to China in the 1970s. She decided to live in the city in the 1980s and 1990s, and has since been here for more than 10 years.

Although Murphy and her sister live in modern apartment-buildings, they have a strong interest in the preservation of historical buildings. **"Seeing many precious old buildings disappear really breaks my heart,"** Murphy said.

Stumbling across the temple in Dongcheng was an exciting discovery for them. "I'm so glad it's still there, looking old but clean!" Murphy told Robin Foo, an architect from Brunei who turned out to be responsible for the temple's restoration.

The temple, which is now called Hong'en Guan, has been around for 600 years: It was built in the Yuan Dynasty and rebuilt in early Qing, Foo said.

During the Yuan Dynasty, it was called Qian-Fuoshi, or Temple of a Thousand Buddhas. It received its present name in the Ming Dynasty, when it became a Taoist temple.



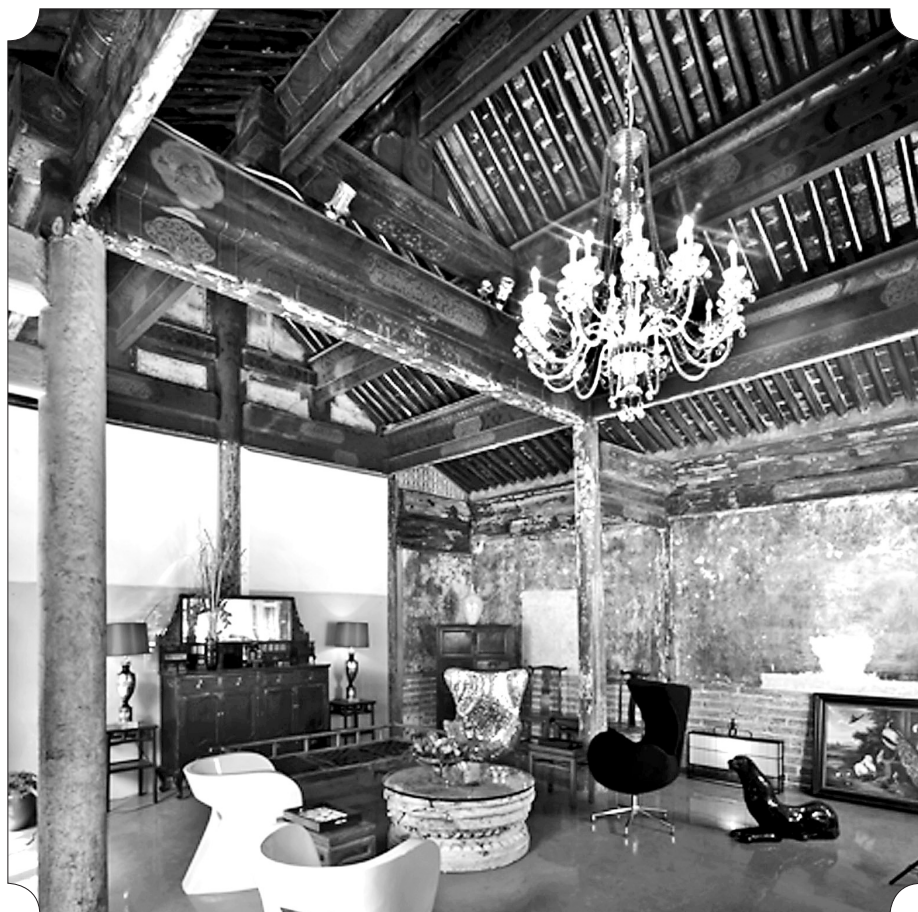
The courtyard is now covered with a glass roof.



The restoration has given a lot of attention to details.



The south room which has been converted into a theater



Old beams and pillars in one of the meeting rooms still display their original designs.

Photos by Zhou Zhiyi

Discovering Hong'en Guan

Foo, 47, has been living in Beijing for eight years, ever since he accepted his first China project, designing the Pine Valley Golf and Country Club in Changping District.

It was in 2003, when SARS hit the capital that Foo found his first *siheyuan*, or courtyard house, in Guowang Hutong. The UK-educated architect renovated the place and turned it into his design studio. A year later, he discovered Hong'en Guan, situated just south of the other courtyard.

The temple was once turned into a workshop to build machinery parts during the Cultural Revolution. It had also been used as **a storage area for heavy machinery, and contained boiler rooms, crisscrossing pipelines and live electrical wires that served the neighborhood.**

According to *Beijing Jiexiang Zhinan*, a guidebook about Beijing's streets and hutongs published in the 1980s, Hong'en Guan was assigned as a workshop for the No 2 Beijing Standard Parts Factory. Later, when the workshop was moved, the temple became a dorm for 200 workers and parts of its grounds were leased as a wet market and a social area for local residents.

The guidebook also noted that Mao Zedong's teacher Yang Changji lived at No. 15 Doufuchi, a neighboring hutong. Mao stayed there during his younger years. Foo believes Mao could have visited Hong'en Guan, as it was less than 20 meters away from Yang's residence.

Temple to the arts

Foo and his team were careful to preserve the temple's original architecture.

The first two years of work were spent clearing out debris and historically unimportant objects — which amounted to 100 truckloads of junk. The following year was spent repairing destroyed parts of the building, like walls and floors that had crumbled into pieces, as well as sealing leaking roofs.

The temple, as it now stands, remains faithful to the intent of its first builders. Foo, based on his theory of preserving buildings, decided not to repaint the

beams and columns; only transparent lacquer was applied to protect the wood while showing its age. Slogans plastered on the pillars, such as "fight the vicious Gang of Four," are also being preserved with transparent covers, as a reflection of the sentiments of some workers during the Cultural Revolution.

Some people may deem the slogans a vandalization of the temple's sanctity, but **Foo thinks that after everything the place has witnessed throughout the ages, fingerprints left by historical events should be allowed to remain and tell their story.**

"There is no need to change any walls or beams for the sake of making them look new, as long as they are still in good structural condition. There is no point making an old man look young; better to clean him up and dress him like a wise old man," Foo said.

Since Hong'en Guan is no longer used as a place of worship, Foo hopes it can become a temple to showcase visual and performing arts. Since the temple opened its doors to the public in March, it has already played host to events and gatherings.

"I did not allow people to drink alcohol inside. But on second thought, people used to offer alcohol to the gods!" Foo said. He is still working on how to make it a base to promote the arts while respecting its rich and layered past.

More courtyard houses in the future

Foo was not familiar with traditional Chinese architecture when he first set foot in the country. But he feels his fate is closely intertwined with courtyards. Apart from Hong'en Guan, he has repaired four other courtyard houses in Dongcheng District.

One of them was a former residence of Li Shutong (1880-1942), a well-known artist, scholar and Buddhist monk. The house in Huanxin Hutong has been featured in various magazines here and abroad.

Foo hopes to repair, even build, more courtyard houses, which he thinks are the most comfortable places to live in Beijing. "You have not lived in Beijing if you have not lived in a Beijing *siheyuan*," he said.

May holiday activities at The Village

By Zhang Dongya

During Labor Day holiday, The Village at Sanlitun will host a series of interactive activities for families and friends who want to spend the long weekend staying "green" and healthy. All the activities will be held between May 1 and 3, from 11 am to 7 pm at The Piazza. For more details, please call 6417 6110.

Destress with Yoga

To destress from work, a short yoga session that will stretch aching muscles should do the trick. From 2 to 6:15 pm every day, people can join a free yoga class and learn how to relax in the office or at home. Lessons will be held hourly, about 20 minutes per session.

DIY eco-friendly T-shirts, bags

The DIY arts and crafts stand offers an opportunity for visitors to make artistic and eco-friendly T-shirts, reusable bags or scrap cloth art. People can also visit The Village's recycling education station for the latest tips from The Green Long March group on how to take care of the environment.

Organic Food Stalls

Dining establishments like QQ Rice and Herbal Cafe, which serve organic food, will

set up stands at The Piazza to offer organic drinks and snacks. Health-conscious shoppers can catch their breath here.

Musical at The Piazza

At the end of a busy day browsing around shops, take a moment to relax with acoustic musical performances at The Piazza. Details, like the names of performers, are not yet out, but why not enjoy the surprise.

V*tamin Lucky Draw

The Village will launch the first in the V*tamin series – the 2009 Summer Style Guide. V*tamin, which aims to provide urbanites their daily dose of style news and info, is co-produced by the studio of KK Fong, a Hong Kong fashion photographer.

From May 1 to 20, V*tamin will hold the "IN Villager" competition, in which one lucky shopper will win a photo shoot with KK Fong and his team of stylists. A picture from the shoot will be put on the cover of the magazine *Village Times*, which will be available in every shop at The Village. Shoppers who spend 500 yuan or more will receive one lucky draw ticket; each customer can get a maximum of five lucky draw tickets per day.



The Village square is a relaxed playground for visitors.

Photo provided by The Village

Silk Street Market issues cash vouchers worth 20 million yuan

By Jin Zhu

Silk Street Market started giving out cash vouchers worth 20 million yuan on Wednesday to boost sales, which have tumbled with the economy and calls to protect intellectual property rights.

The market, one of the most popular shopping centers in Beijing, survives on sales to foreign customers. To shed Silk Street's reputation among foreigners of being a source of knock-off items, the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Fund issued them

the vouchers, the market's general manager Wang Zili said.

The vouchers, with a face value of 20 yuan, are accepted at all Silk Market stalls.

"Foreign customers can use the cash vouchers after they bargain with vendors," Wang said.

Discount coupons have also been issued to foreign shoppers. "After bargaining, customers can get an even lower price with the coupons," he said.

Cash vouchers with a face value of 50 and

100 yuan will soon follow, Wang said.

According to data released by the market, from January 1 to April 21, 3 million people visited the market, down 6.7 percent last year.

"Although the visitor numbers have not been seriously affected by the current financial crisis, the average spending has fallen sharply," Wang said.

Cash vouchers worth 540,000 yuan have been distributed to top-end hotels, travel agencies and airline offices in the city. The rest will be released throughout the year, Wang said.

Some hotels where the cash vouchers are available:

Beijing Jinglun Hotel

Where: 3 Jiangguomen Wai Daijie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6500 2266

Grand Hyatt

Where: 1 Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 8518 1234

Howard Johnson Paragon Hotel

Where: 18 Jiangguomen Wai Daijie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6478 5554

Kempinski Hotel

Where: 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6465 3388

Sofitel Wanda Beijing

Where: 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8599 6666

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyiing@ynet.com

Where can I find guitar shops in town?

The best place to get guitars and related equipment is Xijiekou. Take Subway Line 2 to Jishuitan, exit through Exit B, and head south. After roughly 700 meters, you will reach an area with loads of shops selling guitars and other instruments.

I love baking and I'm looking for food coloring, vanilla, almond, rose water essence, corn syrup and glucose. Do you know where I can get them in Chaoyang?

Try BHG Market Place in the basement of Solana mall. You can also check out stores in Shinkong Place.

BHG Market Place

Where: SMM06, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5905 6565

Shinkong Place

Where: 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6530 5888

Can you recommend a good salon in Chaoyang where I can get facial hair removed?

Waxing services are available at Eric Paris and Dragonfly, as well as nail and beauty shops in Yashow market.

Eric Paris

Where: JW Marriott Hotel Beijing, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5908 8381

Dragonfly

Where: 1/F, Eastern Hotel, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6593 6066

I would like to build my own furniture and need to find a place with decent wood and wood-working tools. Are there any DIY woodworking shops here?

There are plenty of wood stalls in Dongjiao Market. They can cut the wood for you on the spot according to your requirements.

Dongjiao Market

Where: Jia 12, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District

(By Sima Hao)

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Titled "Farewell Utopia" in Chinese, the movie is less a goodbye than a chronicle of the early days of Chinese rock.

Photo by Jin Yuxin

Farewe



Sheng is not what viewers could consider a director." His first great victory never came until 2007, when he won the Shanghai International Film Festival's "New Asian Talent Award."

He was 38.

But through those 38 years he worked behind the scenes. First as a promoter during the early days of Chinese rock, and then on theater production with Meng Jie. His work was tied to the pulse of the art scene.

Sitting quietly under the twilight in a Nan Lu hutong bar, he talks about his past as if it belongs to someone else.

Sheng majored in architectural engineering, but never intended it to be his career. Like many pioneers of the 1990s rock music scene, he described the moment he came to the music as "a reflection from your body."

"You find what you have been longing for, but you don't know how to get it. Then it just comes. Like a friend (former manager of Taiwan Rock Records, which was the era's top acts) said, there is a lifestyle behind the music trend, and what we wanted was totally different from what we had," he says.

This memory was what he captured in *Night on the Earth*, which premiered at this year's Hong Kong International Film Festival.

Titled "Farewell Utopia" in Chinese, the movie is more a goodbye than a chronicle of the early days of Chinese rock. "It's my story, my friend's story and the story of a generation, not at all a straight documentary of Chinese rock," he says.

The film featured the story of Wu Ke, a young and talented guitarist in the early 1990s, as told by his friend. Wu killed himself at age 24. The then unknown guitarist provided a touchstone that set the mood of the film. He was not a popular figure at that time, and he and I didn't know each other. In late 2007, I decided to look back at his life: his death was like a key to my memory," Sheng says.

The film tracks down He Yong, Zhang Chu, Zhang Youdai, Landy Zhang, the early artists, DJs and record label owners, who talk about rock's peak, and how it looks today.



Utopia

By Wang Yu

The lack of frills, trick shots and snazzy editing did nothing to keep *Night of an Era* from being declared one of the "best documentaries of Chinese rock music."

But Sheng Zhimin, the 40-year-old director, says his latest work is less about entertainment and more about the history of an era: one where people expressed themselves with the strength of new art.

The film is an allegory of Chinese society today, and tomorrow.



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Life in the scene

Sheng once worked with them and they shared his idealism. Even 15 years ago rock flourished free of promotion and financial support.

"I couldn't learn any instrument, but there were still other things to do like organizing gigs," Sheng says. The live scene was smaller than its modern incarnation, but promotion was similar.

"The first thing was finding equipment like amplifiers and drum kits. A rock show requires high-quality sound. At that time, only related state-owned organizations had access to such things," Sheng says.

Promotion was another important job before a show. "You have to think about when to send out the ads and negotiate payment of the bands," Sheng says. Besides rockers, the shows also drew many embassy workers. "With no Internet and no media support, we had to look for foreigners in diplomatic apartments to show us where we could post our ads. We had to plan out escape routes in case the guards saw us posting them."

"But no one planned to become a manager or professional promoter. We devoted ourselves to the scene and enjoyed the life, that's all," Sheng says.

In *Night of an Era*, Sheng recorded the practices of the artists' bands and a gig played by He Yong at a club in Tangshan, Hebei Province. The sound system was so simple that He Yong had to ask his assistants to bring equipment from Beijing.

"People believe rock consists of energy and anger, but I want to show them the artists mean far more than that. They still focus on the music, the quality of the show and the industry. But what does the audience want? The crowd in that club looks no different than we did 15 years

ago, but they are just chasing a memory: the classic songs of He Yong, and the long-lost passion itself," Sheng says.

In 1993, rock found its long-absent media attention and it almost went mainstream. A half-baked record industry shot up to sign artists. In retrospect, Sheng says this was the turning point.

A party was held in The Peninsula Palace Beijing by Rock Records to celebrate *The Black Panther* and *Tang Dynasty* going platinum. "I was there, wondering how on

earth they got such a luxurious venue. Something had changed. It wasn't the scene I was working for, so I quit," he says.

Moving to movies

Work in the rock scene left him with media experience and connections - and a contact in Meng Jinghui. Since Meng knew Sheng, he offered him the chance to collaborate on his experimental theater *The Balcony*.

Three years later, Sheng met Chen Guo, one of Hong Kong's most

reputable directors who introduced him to a new concept of moviemaking. He took an opening in 1999 as executive producer of Jia Zhangke's *Platform*. "I was 30 and in charge of the team's finances. We had many problems, but I found we shared our attitude toward life and the same pure drive I had when I first got into rock," he says.

In the movie, a desperate Wu Ke represents the radical and weak artist while Chang, who worked at a rehearsal room in Hebei Province, chases dreams of performing as a singer.

In one scene, Sheng used crosscutting to present two groups of people having dinner. On one side, He Yong and Zhang Youdai dine in a fine restaurant talking about the

music industry and an ideal place to stay while composing. At the same time, Chang worries whether he can afford a ticket home for Spring Festival.

"Life or survival? The two groups are talking about different subjects. When we shot *Platform* in 1999, I stayed in Fenyang, Shanxi Province. That period showed me the reality of normal life. One worker broke a flowerpot in a peasant's home and asked us to pay 5 yuan for the damages. Jia Zhangke wasn't so famous then and we had no money, so I had to hide from the guy," Sheng says.

"I used to live with China's most posh when I worked in music. We said life was art, because we lived every day with music. But it was not until I was chased by men over 5 yuan that I realized these worlds are separate. When you are struggling to survive, all that glitters goes dull. You're your dreams fade away," he says.

It was a lucky brush with reality.

Changing times

"But looking back at what we've done, it (rock) is still valuable," Sheng says.

Chang's family is poor, but they managed to send him out to study music for three months. He writes his own songs, but now he talks about micropayment music sales, Internet downloads, ringtones and registering copyrights. He wants to make money from his music.

But aside from a lag in information, the new generation of musicians in the countryside are no different from their urban peers.

While in the early 1990s, rock was about being different and leading a different life, today rock is about buying into a packaged identity. "From the surface it looks like there are more choices and big names, but everyone is chasing the same things. People still want to be different, but most of them, especially the youngest, do not know what they want," Sheng says.

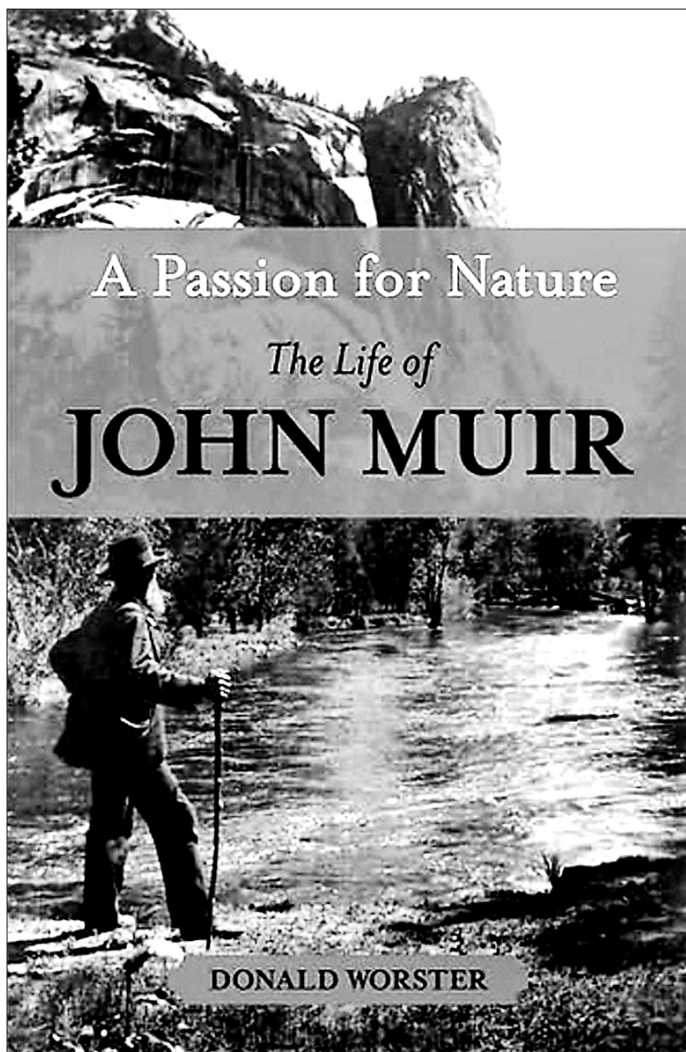
The message is that society is too strong to for most individuals to take on, and surrender is easy. But despite this bitter critique of pop pursuits, Sheng has not given up on Chinese music.

There is soul and strength buried somewhere in the scene.

"People believe rock consists of energy and anger, but I want to show them the artists mean far more than that. They still focus on the music, the quality of the show and the industry."



Father of modern conservationism



By Charles Zhu

As global warming and environmental destruction have become an alarming international issue, many have turned to the wisdom of early naturalist and conservationist John Muir.

Against the backdrop of first world guilt over obsession and over-consumption, Donald Worster, an environmental writer, retells the unusual story of the naturalist's life in *A Passion for Nature: the Life of John Muir* (535pp, Oxford University Press, \$34.95).

Muir spent his childhood at the seaport of Dunbar, Scotland and moved at age 11 to Wisconsin, US, where his father bought land in 1849. His father, Daniel, a cruel taskmaster, beat and tortured Muir during his ranting sermons. The beatings, at least in part, inspired his inexhaustible delight in the natural world, seeing in it the hand of a God at work rather than the hand of his father. He believed that he had an "inherited wildness" in his veins that set him apart from adults, a religious devotion he would later develop into pantheism.

He dropped out of the University of Wisconsin in the early 1860s and took work at a steam-powered factory in Indianapolis making wooden hubs and spokes for wagon wheels. Muir "regardless of where he traveled, would remain a Lowland Scot all his days."

An odd accident that almost blinded him caused a dramatic change in Muir's life. "Those weeks of darkness had wrought a permanent change in his thinking, and that change would gather force during the spring and ensuing summer. He would never go back to Osgood, Smith. He would throw down his tools, abandon forever any career in industry or invention, and seek his own independent way

on earth."

He turned instead to the core conviction of Romanticism that "nature – the wildness that lies beyond human technology and culture – is essential to the psychological and spiritual well-being of people," Worster says. Muir began to maintain that nature and open space were crucial to mental health in an urbanized, over-industrialized society.

In 1867, at age 29, Muir embarked on a thousand-mile trek from Indiana to the Gulf of Mexico. He collected many plant specimens and was taken in by the beauty of nature.

He went to Canada towards the end of the Civil War and ventured to Florida, Cuba and to Yosemite Valley in California, where his work as a naturalist made him famous. He trekked to the Sierra, where he found a scene of an untrammelled Eden "with more of milk and more of honey than ever did old Canaan in its happiest prime," he wrote to his brother from California. He compared that summer of 1869 to time spent in "New Jerusalem."

As he discovered an increasing array of botanical beauty in this "paradise," he began to forsake his Presbyterian upbringing. He discovered the "gospel of natural theology," which maintained that all things "are our earth-born companions and fellow mortals."

For Muir, no books written by man could overpower the awe and sense of the infinite he found in nature.

His love "knew no bounds but knew how to compromise. He inspired Americans to believe that nature deserved higher consideration," Worster says. Muir's religious passion for nature has inspired American conservationists for generations ever since.

Team sets out to find real Beijing

By He Jianwei

You may have lived in Beijing for many years, but that does not make it any easier to describe what the city is and how people here live.

You can say Shichahai is a noisy area packed with bars, but the tug of war between tourists and Beijing natives is hidden even from the neon lights. In the CBD, people rush in and out of modern buildings that hide mazes of shops peddling all manner of plastic treasures.

Most people would say the city has two faces, but the people at ISreading Culture, Design and Culture Research Studios counted 18 while compiling *Beijing Parkour: Walking and Observing the 18 Regions* (344pp, Life Reading and New Knowledge Sanlian Press, 59 yuan).

Parkour is an extreme sport in which the participant aims to move as smoothly, quickly and efficiently as possible from one point to another. It is meant to teach one to overcome obstacles, be they branches, rocks, rails or concrete walls. The researchers became traceurs to see our city from a new angle.

Their 18 regions include old

protected areas, like Jingshan, Shichahai and Yonghegong; backward areas, like Longfusi, Dongwuyuan and the Beijing Railway Station; areas experiencing rebirth, like 798 Art Zone, Zhongguancun and Maizidian; and emerging scenes like CBD and the Olympic Green.

These are grouped into three divisions – central, west and east – along the north-south extension line of Xidan and Dongdan. "The whole city is like a cake. We discussed for a long time how to slice it, because we didn't have enough people to make more than 18 groups," Shi Jian, an architectural critic and planning director of ISreading Culture, said.

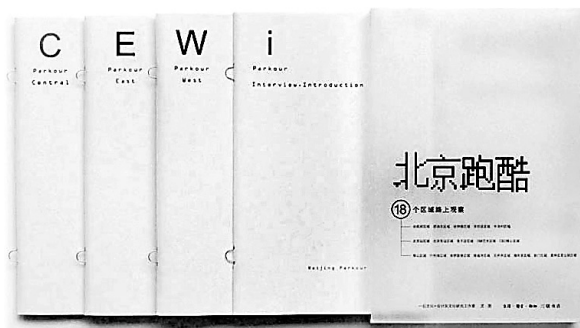
In Ming and Qing dynasties, the Forbidden City and the entire city was designed based on a north-south axis, from Yongdingmen at the south to Tian'anmen, and then to Jingshan, Gulou and Zhonglou at the north.

But since 1949 it has developed along an east-west axis down Chang'an Avenue. "Because of the Olympic Games, the city government began to emphasize its development running north-south. The main Olympic avenues are built along this axis," Shi said.

As traceurs, the researchers climbed to the top of Beijing West Railway Station or dug up the government's architecture plans. They also talked with locals in each area. They discussed life in Tianningsi Temple with its nuns, walked into the house of citizens

in Shichahai and talked with shop owners in Longfusi.

"We hope to reveal the real Beijing to the readers from a neutral view. It is not a book to criticize urban planning. We present the real city through our pictures, words and drawings," he said.



Timezone8 book listing

Timezone8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three new titles for *Beijing Today* readers.

China Talks: Interviews with 32 Contemporary Artists by Jerome Sans

By Jerome Sans, 280pp, Timezone8, US \$45.00



Never before have so many Chinese artists been given a platform to talk about their lives and works in such a direct, unfettered format. This dialogue with one of the world's most dynamic curators and critics allows the reader to meet the artist, and perhaps even more importantly the man or woman behind the art.

Soul Stealer: Zeng Han and Yang Changhong

By Zeng Han, 104pp, Timezone8, US \$22.00



The book is a catalog of photographic works by Zeng Han and Yang Changhong. It is a mysterious four-part series of portraits and landscapes, evaluating the connection between China's soul and the people who live amongst its changing culture. These dioramas of costumed performers and theatrical gazes offer a magical-realism that speaks of China's soul and rapid globalization.

Qi Zhilong

By Qi Zhilong, 224pp, Timezone8, US \$80.00



Qi Zhilong has become emblematic of Chinese contemporary art. Using close-cropped head shots, he portrays China in transition. His models are attractive, confident, young girls in military hats, but with modern faces ill befitting the revolutionary imagery. His works are in most major collections of contemporary Chinese art. More recently, his work was chosen for the catalog cover of the monumental exhibition of the Uli Sigg Collection titled *Mahjong*.

(By He Jianwei)

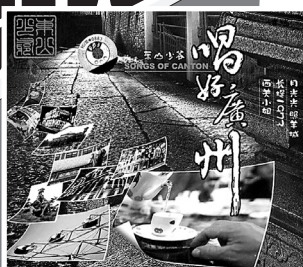
By He Jianwei

Hip-hop culture has many young fans in China. They wear baggy jeans and T-shirts and rap in their own dialects. Now, more and more rappers are releasing albums in their own dialects, and this new art has a close following.

Although some see no future for this form, because of the language barrier, the bands are still making an effort to continue it through many albums.



Rap finds new audience in local dialects



Dongshan Shaoye's first album

Other bands

Black Head

This hip-hop band that raps in Xi'an dialect has two albums. Some songs criticize social ills and others expose the ugly side of reality and sing Xi'an's long history. They released their first album *Get up Earlier than a Rooster* in November 2007. Their running joke is that "we sing in the accent of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of Qin Dynasty (221 BC-206 BC)."

Dongshan Shaoye

The 26-year-old singer Liao Huan sings in Cantonese and has released two albums revealing the changes of Guangzhou and looking back at its ancient history. He will release a third album this year based on the history of Guangdong Province.

D-Evil

This underground band raps in Nanjing dialect and focuses on ordinary life in the city. Their first popular song, "Like the Candle Flickering in the Wind," tells a true story of a poor old woman selling newspapers downtown. The song advocates caring for disadvantaged groups.

It is hard to guess how many rappers there are on the mainland, but a Google search for "dialect rappers" in Chinese revealed that almost every province has at least one such band. But these rappers are just in it for fun: only a handful of bands are serious about it – releasing albums and making new songs.

Last year, a Changsha dialect rap group "Changsha City" was played over the speakers of almost every hip-hop fashion shop in the city. The lyrics talked about its scenic spots, snacks, pop culture and daily life. The prelude was mixed with Huagu Opera, typical of Hunan Province.

C-BLOCK is another five-member group. Its 18-year-old members met in 2007 at a singing competition. The sponsoring record label wanted to release a series of dialect albums and asked C-BLOCK to write a song. While they were quick to generate material, the label dumped its plans. Still, the song became a hit in Changsha.

Last year, the group released its first album *Xiang Show*, *xiang* being the shortened form for Hunan Province. It printed 1,400, good sales for an underground album.

"Even if you don't know what hip-hop is and don't like street culture, if you are a Changsha native you will love our song. It's not just because the music is in Changsha dialect: We rap about what people there know," Sheng Yu, the leader of the band, says.

As with most rappers, their cynical attitude shows through in the reality in their songs.

The lyrics to their "Go to School" capture high school life in Changsha. They worried about being tardy and complained about being disciplined by their parents.

Most people consider rappers rebellious, but C-BLOCK's members are anything but: "otaku." They live regular lives, wake up at 8 am, play basketball at 9 am, study the afternoon and perform in bars at night.

But some people say the dialect rappers will, by definition, never catch on throughout China.

"Dialect rap is limited to a certain region. Maybe I can find it interesting to listen to at first, but if I don't know the dialect I can't understand the words, and I probably won't listen to more songs," Linda Song, a hip-hop fan, said.

Black Head's *Get up Earlier than a Rooster*

C-BLOCK rose to popularity on Hunan TV, which broadcasts throughout the country. They know their audience is limited, and to compensate they have created some songs with more lyrics in standard Chinese.

"Rapping in Changsha dialect or standard Chinese doesn't matter: our attitude to music and life is what's important," Sheng says.

But he vowed never to abandon Changsha dialect. It is what distinguishes C-BLOCK from other hip-hop groups.

Lyrics in rap are always riddled with vulgarities regardless of the language, and that's another reason some worry about the spread of underground hip-hop.

Rather than rely on bad words to criticize reality, they prefer to express positive emotions. They created more songs to praise parental love. For "Dear Mum," each member contributed his or her own stories about a mother's love. Their mothers also appeared in the music video.

The music video touched many viewers when it aired. On the group's Web site, visitors voted it as one of the best three on the first album.

C-BLOCK's second album is due out this year. "We hope it can be released nationally by a record company," Sheng says.



C-BLOCK released its first album *Xiang Show*, *xiang* being the shortened form for Hunan Province last year.
Photo by c-block.com.cn



Inspiration is everywhere

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* derives inspiration from cutting-edge household and office furniture, romantic theater seats and a farmhouse-turned-playground.

Contemporary furniture to inspire

Contemporary artists express their values in distinctive and eye-catching ways. A case in point is furniture designers.

Instead of looking at the same old traditional Chinese furniture in the Gaobeidian furniture market, an afternoon at an "un-natural" furniture exhibit might give weary shoppers a flash of inspiration.

The Beijing Center for the Arts' exhibition features works by 14 Chinese architects and artists, who built household and office furniture using ordinary materials seen in kitchens, laboratories and fast-food restaurants. Among them is Surell, a man-made stone-like material from the makers of Formica.

The purpose of the exhibition, its curators Bu Bing and Sun Tian said, is to present the passion of Chinese intellectuals for furniture in an "un-natural" way. Bu and Sun think that environmentalism often misleads people into opting for natural materials, ignoring the fact that some such materials cannot be replenished.

Some of the pieces at the exhibit are very easy to put together, and can serve as models to people who want to custom-make their furniture.

1: Thick-thin folds

Pingfeng, or screens, are widely used in Chinese homes to divide or link spaces. Architect Zhang Yonghe used Surell to replace the traditional *pingfeng*'s wooden frame and paper cover.

2: Pillar Bookholders

These five bookholders look like a building pillar. The designer, Yiding, said he was inspired by monolithic posts and rocks seen in Chinese gardens. The bookholders are made out of wood covered with Surell.

3: Mountain Library

A whole wall of books is something a book lover would not want to miss. Designer Meng Yan's "mountain library" does not only blur the distinction between a bookshelf and a cabinet, but it also incorporates the function of a CD collection holder.

4: Garden in a Bench

Liu Jiakun created this bench using custom-made translucent red, blue, yellow and green Surell. You can put soil and grass between the treads to give this indoor bench a feel of the outdoor.

5: Table-chair

This object is interesting because it is ambiguous: it is neither a table nor a chair. It can be both a practical and artsy piece to put in your office's reception lounge. This was designed by Deshaus, an architectural firm, and also uses Surell. The chair seat should be roomier to make it more comfortable, but it makes for a great conversation piece with new clients.

"Un-natural" exhibition

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6559 8008

Cost: Free

Shops that can custom-make furniture

Beijing Zhongxi Jiaju Sheji Zhizuo Zhongxin

Where: 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6593 2170

Beijing Anmei'er Jiaju Zhizuo Zhongxin

Where: 11 Beixishuan Xi Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8291 2510

Shanghai Minfang Decor (makers of the furniture at the exhibition)

Where: 650 Nanda Lu, Baosheng District, Shanghai

Tel: 021 3205 2243



1: Thick-thin folds

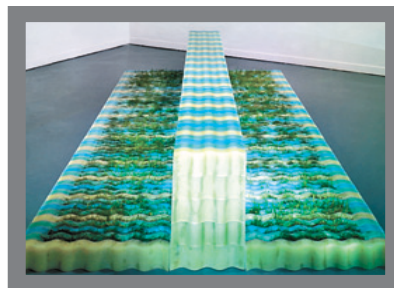


2: Pillar Bookholders

Photos by Zhou Zhiyi



3: Mountain Library



4: Garden in a Bench



5: Table-chair

The Romeo and Juliet chair

The Guangmingge Tea House near the Drum and Bell Tower, which stages crosstalk shows, is drawing crowds of young people. It is so popular that tickets for most performances are sold out a week in advance – and bought in person.

Guangmingge is not your regular theater; it has seats specially designed for love birds, and not the kind you see in movie houses. The pair of seats is made up of one that is higher and one lower. The woman normally takes the lower seat and lies back in the man's arms.

The tea house's owner, Meng Fanhai, said they were undecided what to name their new couple seats. But a frontrunner is Guo Jing and Huang Rong, the lovers from the popular martial arts novel *The Legend of Condor Heroes*. Unlike Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, these two get a happy ending.

Where: Guangmingge Tea House, 61 Gulou Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: Daily 7: 30 pm

Tel: 6401 8988

Cost: 20 yuan regular seats; 75 yuan for couple seats

Wanted playmates and visitors

It's nothing special to visit a farmer's house in the Beijing suburbs. People, however, are flocking to the residence of Xia Kaipeng, one among hundreds of farmers in Xiji county, Tongzhou District.

Xia's home is made up of a family of seven, including a little boy named Yu Boxu. Three years ago, Yu's grandfather wanted to find the boy company his own age, so he asked his daughter to post an ad online. Each parent or accompanying adult would be required to pay 20 yuan to enjoy the farm. Many parents replied to the ad to give their children a playground in a setting closer to nature.

So far, Xia's family only accepts children under 6 years old. Activities at the farm include flying kites, picking fruits and vegetables and mud fights.

The farmhouse does not have a guesthouse or a barbecue grill; adults are asked to bring their own food and eating utensils. Horseback riding is also not allowed. Check out blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_4b2bf8ef010008m8.html for more information.

Where: Yuxinzhuang, Xiji county, Tongzhou District

Tel: 6157 0857

Cost: 20 yuan for adults

Dining Web site's top five restaurant picks

By Zhao Hongyi

Fantong.com, the country's leading restaurant review and booking Web site, has released its list of this year's "top 10 most innovative restaurants in Beijing." These dining establishments offer Chinese cuisine with a foreign twist and vice versa – an adventure for the palate.

Beijing Today visited the 10 restaurants to help readers decide where to dine this long holiday weekend. This week, we present the first five ones.



Houhai 16 is located in a quiet hutong.

Photo provided by Houhai 16

Houhai 16

Located in a courtyard in the Houhai bar area, this restaurant is famous for "exotic" dishes that originated in the Qing Dynasty.

It has charming traditional Chinese decor, but like most hutong places, it is not easy to find. Better give yourself some lead time before your stomach grumbles. The calm and quiet atmosphere here is a strong contrast to the noise and frenzy outside. The courtyard is also big enough for parties.

Houhai 16's specialty is boiled fish worm in heavy soup (188 yuan). Other recommended dishes include fotiaoqiang (388 yuan), boiled fish and deer meat. Crocodile and ostrich dishes are also available.

Where: 16 Neixiaochang Hutong, Di'anmen Wai Dajie (opposite Di'anmen Department Store), Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 8625 2725; 13801391345

Cost: 150 yuan

Web site: houhai16.cn



The restaurant's fish

Jinxiangyou

Jinxiangyou or Golden Fragrant Pomelo sets itself apart from other Chinese restaurants with its interior design. It has created a plush, cosmopolitan atmosphere through huge gold lanterns and fashionable plants.

It serves spicy Hunan cuisine and Cantonese seafood dishes, which can be delivered to your home. It also provides customers with free wireless Internet access.

Where: 3/F Tower D, Central World Trade Center, A6 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6563 0055; 15810314340

Cost: 80-100 yuan



Interior design

Photos provided by Jinxiangyou



Bean hotpot

Jia 21

The restaurant, housed in Huiqiao Hotel, is known for its Yunnan and Guizhou cuisines, but it also has a buffet of Thai and Myanmar dishes.

Jia 21's popular dishes include dried mushrooms from the south, fish soup, tofu rice, pineapple rice and steamed chicken.

Where: A21 Beitucheng Dong Lu (opposite the University of International Business and Economics), Huixin Dong Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm for lunch; 4:30-10 pm for dinner

Tel: 6489 5066

Cost: 80 yuan



Jia21's interior

Photos provided by Jia21



Enjoy vegetable hotpot from Xinladao's lake-side seats.

Photos provided by Xinladao

Xinladao

The restaurant, which also calls itself Sino Hot Taste, specializes in Sichuan-style hot pot. Try the shrimp balls, bamboo roots, pumpkin porridge and lemon water made by themselves, which are all excellent.

Another popular item on the menu is suobian fish (64 yuan per kilogram), tender and tasty sliced fish that comes from the Yangtze River, which is ideal as an appetizer.

Drinks to try at Xinladao are sliced ice watermelon juice (15 yuan) and iced herbal tea (15 yuan). The restaurant has six other branches in downtown Beijing.

Where: 9 Huixin Dong Jie (opposite the University of International Business and Economics), Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6196 7966; 6495 1722

Cost: 60 yuan

Web site: xinladao.net



Baked oysters from Papa's

Photos provided by Papa's

Papa's

The chain restaurant, which has branches in Shanghai, Wuhan, Harbin and Shenyang, mainly offers Korean food with an endless array of free side dishes and wine. It also serves rice toppings and Western food like steak and vegetable salads.

Papa's also doubles as a cafe since some customers order a cup of coffee and stay there the whole day.

Where: Building 6, Anhui Li Block 3 (opposite North Star Shopping Mall), Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 12 midnight

Tel: 5166 3328

Cost: 50 yuan

Web site: papas.com.cn

A homecoming after 100 years

By Li Jing

In 1868, John Thomson, a Scottish photographer, set out from Hong Kong for what would be a four-year expedition around China. He traveled extensively in the south, the east and north, making a stop in the

imperial capital Beijing before heading back down to the Yangtze River, altogether covering 10,000 kilometers.

Thomson was one of the few foreign photographers in the country during that era, and he wanted to present a faithful

account of China and its people. He recorded everyday street scenes, ordinary families, businessmen, beggars and monks.

He faced huge physical challenges transporting his photography gear. It was the most advanced technology at the time, called the "wet collodion" process. To produce photos with the finest gradations and best print quality, the process involved putting the film on glass plates coated with wet-collodion emulsion before making an exposure – which involved cumbersome equipment.

Thomson also faced language difficulties and cultural barriers. His saving grace came in the form of an interpreter from Tianjin, who took the lone photograph of him during the trip, posing with two soldiers.

At the end of his travels, he returned to Britain where he lectured and published books on China until his death in 1921. His photographs, however, were never seen in China – until now.

"We spent three years working to bring these cherished photographs to China," said Betty Yao, organizer of the exhibition

China: Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872.

She said preparing the exhibit was an enormous challenge. The location and cultural context of each photograph had to be researched and identified; finding sponsors was also a struggle because none of the works were for sale.

But finally, the images captured in China 130 years ago are ready for all to see.

From Beijing, the exhibition will go to the Fujian Museum, then the Guangzhou Museum and the Dongguan Exhibition Center. Afterwards, it will return to the Liverpool Museum in Britain, just in time for next Lunar New Year.

China – Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872

Where: Beijing World Art Museum, 9A Fuxing Lu, Haidian District

When: Until May 18, daily 9 am – 6 pm

Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 5980 2222



A photo by Thomson

5

Friday, May 1

Exhibition

One-track Mind – Chen Fei Solo Exhibition

Where: Star Gallery, D09, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 17, daily 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 0591



Paper Skin – Peng Wei Solo Exhibition

Where: Space II, Gallery Artside Beijing, Area E, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 19, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9192

Discovery

Where: Found Museum, Area D, International Art Area, 1 Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 31, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 7617

Nightlife

Britain Rush

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

SZ & The Boxers

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

6

Saturday, May 2

Exhibition

The Face Without World View

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, E06, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9530

Nam June Paik Solo Exhibition

Where: CAFA Art Museum, Central Academy of Fine Arts, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

When: 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1575

Serious Games – Joint Exhibition

Seven artists born in the 1970s and 1960s use cartoons to discuss serious issues. Accompanying the exhibition is a documentary.

Where: Dandeli Gallery, 3 Guangqulu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 10, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 67708966

Nightlife

2009 Beijing Midi Night

Where: Star Live, 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6425 5677

Jess Meider

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

University Rock Music Night

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:45 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 4611

Sunday, May 3

Exhibition

Based on a True Story

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 20, daily 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan for students

Tel: 5876 0600

2009 Bu Hua Solo Exhibition



Where: Digital Art of China, E52, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 5, daily except Monday, 10 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9096

My Carnival – Yang Jing Solo Exhibition

Where: Andrew James Art, 319 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 17, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 1300126765

To Be the Most Simple

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 5, daily 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan for students

Tel: 5876 0600

Nightlife

Three-year Ceremony

Where: D 22 Bar, 240 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 60 yuan; 40 yuan for students

Tel: 6265 3177

Upcoming

Nightlife

Fluorescent is the Night – Dance Rock Party

Who: Electroboys (Sweden), The Big 4, The Roy

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: May 7, 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in June

Concert

2009 French Piano Festival Beijing – Stephen Kovacevich Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: June 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Windsbacher Knabenchor China Premiere

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: June 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 6831 6633

Wilderness

Who: China Opera and Dance Drama Theater

Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Immortal Mendelssohn – Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's Birth

Who: China National Opera House Symphony Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Sounds of Yunnan

Who: Yang Liping, Xia Ga

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: From June 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 5166 3124

Raymonda

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 24-26, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Dream Variations – Collected Programmes

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Verdi's Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 18-21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

By Venus Lee

With the weather getting warmer, some readers may have already noticed that their sniffles and other minor ailments returned with the spring. *Beijing Today* has a few tips to avoid these minor discomforts while traveling outdoors.

Breathe clear this spring

Inner fires gone wild

Marisa Schmitz, a project planner at a public relations firm, complained bitterly about a sudden outbreak of canker sores and pimples. "I hate pimples, and the sores have made it hard to eat or talk," she said. She chalked up the symptoms to stress and poor sleep.

But what foreigners would consider to be signs of a light cold, Chinese medicine doctors attribute to *shang huo*, something Guo Dasheng, from Beijing Chinese Medicine Hospital, says is especially easy to develop during the city's dry and windy spring.

What does it mean to shang huo?

Shang huo means to have an excess of "hot qi." It is a term used in Chinese medicine to describe an imbalance of energies in the human body.

Chinese philosophy, and by extension Chinese medicine, is dominated by the ideal of harmony and balance. According to the theory, each person's body has an inner fire,

or yang, that warms the body and supplies energy. If this yang side of the balance grows stronger than the yin, the cool energy, *shang huo* symptoms will result.

"A sore throat, red eyes, stuffy nose, dry mouth, nosebleeds, toothaches, constipation and dark urine are all symptoms of *shang huo*," Guo says.

He says these symptoms can be brought on by eating greasy foods, such as potato chips, fried chicken, pizza and grilled meat, or spicy foods like hot pot. It can also be triggered by acidic foods like citrus fruit, or by food allergies, immune system reactions and deficiencies in vitamin B12, iron or folic acid.

Catching a cold, smoking, drinking, stress, rage and insomnia make it easy for someone to *shang huo*.

"The symptoms vary depending on the strength of the heat. Someone who is slightly *shang huo* may have a sore throat and some pimples. A really strong heat can be accompanied by canker sores, nose bleeds and constipation," he says.

Maintaining a balance

"The inner fire is at its strongest in spring, and the body's nervous system is not strong enough to regulate it. It is very easy to *shang huo* if you don't follow a healthy diet and get plenty of rest during this season," Liao Yan, a researcher at Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, says.

Follow these tips to keep a balance:

1. Replenish your fluids

Drinking warm water has many good effects, including moderating the body's heat and cleaning the oral cavity. "Even if you stay indoors, you should drink at least 1.3 liters of water. If you *shang huo*, try drinking bitter green tea, herbal tea, lemonade or eating citrus fruits," Liao said.

2. Sleep better

People who don't sleep well can *shang huo*, which puts anyone on the night shift at particular

risk. "A good night's sleep can help someone who already has *shang huo*," he says.

People who work more with their brains at jobs with limited physical activity have a hard time getting a good rest. A foot massage can help ease tension and promote rest, he says. "Soak your feet in warm water, and add heat until you break a light sweat. After a week of this, you should sweat naturally and will stop feeling dry all the time," he says.

3. Eat lighter

High-calorie foods generate more heat, so avoid dry, deep-fried or spicy foods, especially cookies and peanuts. "Green vegetables, turnips, carrots, fruits, milk, eggs, lean meats, green bean soup or boiled plums are the best choice for patients," he says.

He also says a positive outlook and good attitude can work wonders.

Stop sinus problems early

Flowers are blooming and pollen is in the air. It's the season for hay fever!

The term hay fever is a loose description of a variety of nasal and eye symptoms more properly called "allergic rhinitis." These include coughing, headache, itching, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, and tearing eyes.

"Hay fever can appear at any age, though it appears most often in young and middle-aged persons," Liu Jingming, an ear, nose and throat doctor at Tongren Hospital, says.

According to some studies, hay fever is closely linked to bronchial asthma. Both are allergic reactions, but in different parts of the respiratory system. Hay fever occurs in the upper portion while asthma occurs deep in the lungs. "Hay fever is a risk factor for asthma. Patients with hay fever have a three times greater chance of developing asthma than the general population," he says.

People with allergies must first learn what they are allergic to. The best way to find out is through a skin test at the hospital. "Hay fever starts when you come in contact with an allergen. Which you are susceptible to

depends on genetics, so you can't really cure it. All you can do is control the symptoms with medicine or surgery," he says.

Treatments include immunological treatment, antihistamines and hormone therapy, but prevention is key:

1. Keep away from allergens like pets, sofa cushions and carpets. "Now is when animals are shedding, so it's best not to touch them," he says.

2. Outdoor pollen levels are at their highest in the morning and evening. People who are allergic to pollen should not go places where it is abundant. Wear a mask if going out to exercise. When traveling in a vehicle, close

the windows to reduce exposure.

3. Pay attention to shifts in the weather and do what you would to prevent a cold. Patients with seasonal allergies should get preventive care.

4. Patients who are allergic to mold spores or dust mites should keep indoor air dry, clean and sanitary. Air out blankets and pillows and stomp any cockroaches.

5. Patients with asthma should go to the hospital if their chest feels tight or stuffy. Doctors will adjust the patient's dosage to prevent an asthma attack.

6. Don't smoke, exercise and keep regular work hours to avoid fatigue.

CFP Photo

A march back in time

Retracing the protests of May 4, 1919

By Zhang Dongya

On May 4, 1919, students from Beijing universities took to the streets to protest the terms of the Treaty of Versailles that concluded World War I. According to the treaty drawn up in Paris, Germany's territorial claims in China were not returned to the Chinese, as hoped, but instead were turned over to the Japanese. The outpouring of rage gave birth to the New Culture Movement that aimed to reinstate China to its former position of power.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the student demonstrations, which set off from Peking University's Hong Lou or Red Building. In honor of the occasion, a memorial of the New Culture Movement, showcasing some 2,000 articles, reopened at Hong Lou on April 22. Visitors are taken on a trip back in time, including a remembrance of the personalities that emerged at the time. *Beijing Today* also takes you to other historical sites that became indelible parts of the movement.

Hong Lou, a restoration in May

Hong Lou is a four-story building made largely of red bricks, hence its name. It was built in 1918 to house some classrooms and Peking University's library. It is located on a street renamed Wusi Dajie, to commemorate the May 4 protests.

In 2002, the building's first floor was transformed into memorial halls for the New

Culture Movement. It was closed for renovation in 2007, and reopened this April.

The first exhibition hall presents a video introducing Hong Lou and the history of the movement.

In 1917, Cai Yuanpei was appointed president of Peking University. His pursuits of "freedom of thought" and "accommodation of a diversity of ideas" – ideals still in the university's motto – gathered a following that included teachers Chen Duxiu, Hu Shi and Lu Xun.

Their offices, including Lu's classroom, were on Hong Lou's second floor.

At the new memorial, Cai and Chen's offices were moved to the first floor, which includes new statues of the two men. Their work spaces, including their desks, bookcases, reading lamps, old telephones and writing brushes, were recreated based on historical documents. Some of their old pictures, letters and books are included in the display.

In 1919, Li Dazhao was the curator of the Peking University library, and Mao Zedong was his assistant. Li's office has been recreated and filled with his things. The old newspaper reading rooms, where Mao famously worked, were also brought back to life with shelves and long wooden benches used at the time.

The former office of Xinchao magazine, or The Renaissance, is

one of the new exhibition halls. The magazine, founded in 1918 by the university's Xinchao student society, was a battlefield of thoughts on democracy and the sciences, and later supported the New Culture Movement.

Before the May 4 rally, Peking University students made more than 3,000 banners with impassioned slogans at the society's office. Luo Jialun, the group's leader, wrote a petition to all students in the university, which was the only material the magazine published and released on protest day.

Xinchao's office is now filled with reproductions of the banners printed 90 years ago. Fu Lin, who is in charge of the room's restoration, said they largely relied on personal accounts because there are no existing photographs of the old office.

In Hong Lou's courtyard is an old, well-preserved, single-story building that tells the history of the New Culture Movement through an exhibition of old documents and objects.

On Hong Lou's east side is a small square called Democracy Square. It contains a triangle-shaped wall etched with images of people and organizations involved in the movement, like Lu Xun, Chen Duxiu and publication Xinqingnian, or the New Youth.

The memorial's reopening drew many alumni and big names from past generations, including 79-year-old Cai Yingduo, daughter of former university president Cai Yuanpei.

The New Culture Movement Memorial of Beijing

Where: 29 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Getting there: Take bus 2, 60, 101, 103, 109, 111, 685, 810, 814 or 846 to Shatan stop
Open: Daily except Monday, 9 am – 4 pm
Tel: 6612 8596
Admission: Free



A new statue of Cai Yuanpei, former president of Peking University



Xinqingnian, or the New Youth, was a popular publication in 1919.



A recreation of Cai Yuanpei's office at Hong Lou



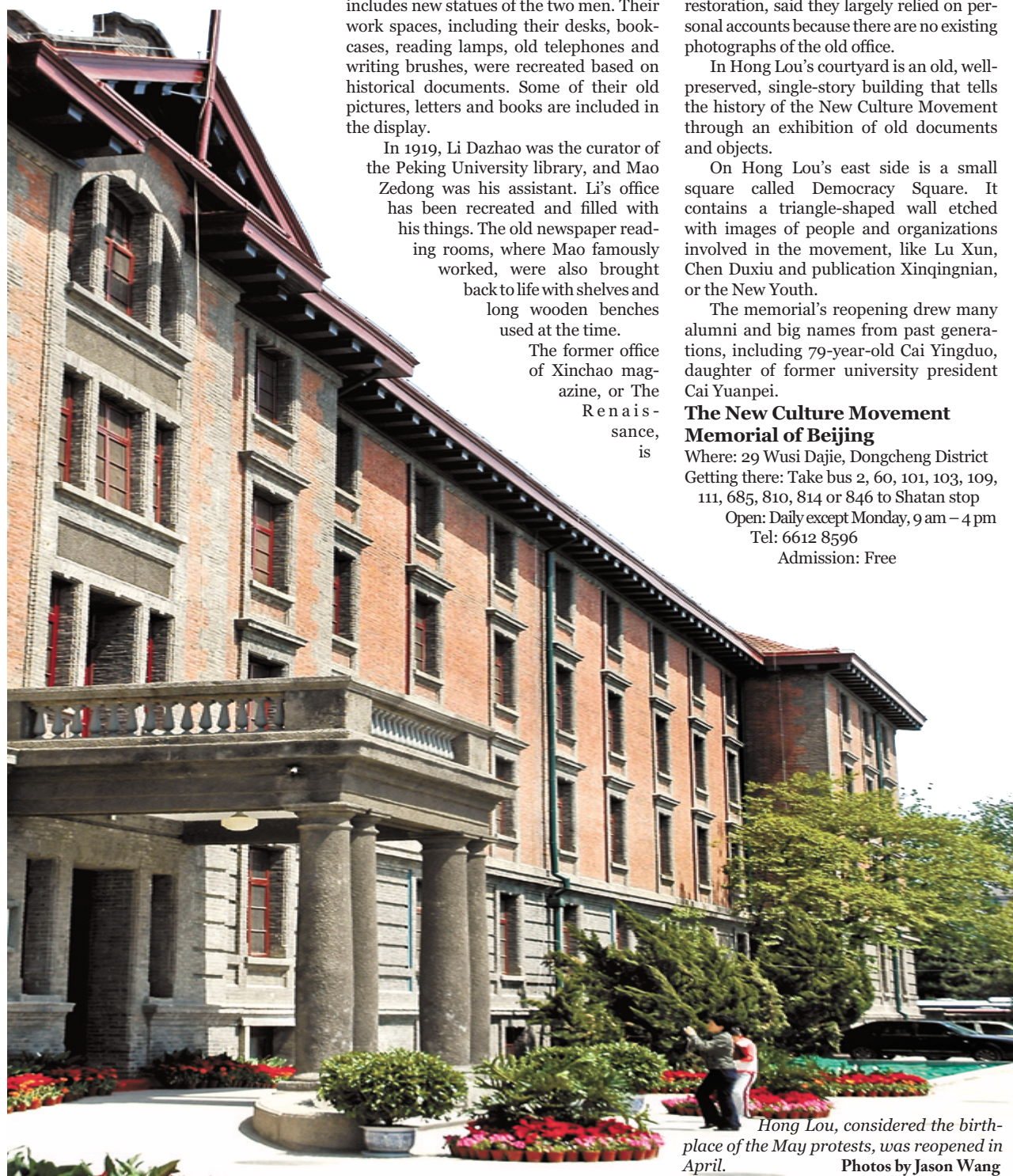
A recreation of the newspaper reading room where Mao Zedong worked in 1919



The Xinchao Society's office is now filled with reproductions of banners from 90 years ago.



An exhibition telling the history of the New Culture Movement



Hong Lou, considered the birthplace of the May protests, was reopened in April.

Photos by Jason Wang

Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20

Retracing the march

On May 1, 1919, after students of Peking University learned of the Chinese government's weak response to the Treaty of Versailles, they decided to hold an urgent meeting for all students two days later. On the evening of May 3, representatives from other local universities also attended and the participants agreed to protest at Tiananmen Square the next day.

On May 4, 3,000 students from 13 Beijing universities joined the demonstrations. Peking University students marched from Hong Lou toward Tiananmen.

According to records kept by Bai Qichang, a military official of the Northern Warlords Government who followed the student march from beginning to end, Dongjiao Min Xiang and Zhaojia Lou were two vital spots on the route.

Dongjiao Min Xiang, the former embassy district

From Tiananmen Square, the students headed for Dongjiao Min Xiang. It was the biggest diplomatic district and housed the embassies of the US, UK, Russia, Italy, France and Japan. The protesters' first stop was the US embassy, but they were stopped at the gate and told that the ambassador was away. They tried other embassies, but also failed to get an audience.

In Qing Dynasty, Dongjiao Min Xiang served as the temporary residence of foreign envoys and guests. After the First Opium War of 1840, the embassies of the UK, Russia, Germany and France were established there. In 1901, it was renamed "Embassy Street"; a total of 11 embassies moved in here, along with foreign banks, churches and hospitals. Most buildings were constructed according to European architecture, which was an added attraction for foreign residents.

Dongjiao Min Xiang, which stretches from Tiananmen Guangchang Dong Lu to Chongwenmen Nei Dajie, is now the longest *hutong* in Beijing. All the embassies moved out in 1959, but the buildings' Western design has been preserved. They are now occupied by banks, shops and government offices, but still attract visitors wanting a

glimpse of 19th-century Beijing.

Getting there: Take Subway Line 1 to Wangfujing station. Alternatively, visitors can take bus 10, 59, 103, 104, 126, 420 or 803 to Wangfujing, then walk to Dongjiao Min Xiang.

Zhaojia Lou, a government official's residence

After the student demonstrators failed to enter the embassies in Dongjiao Min Xiang, they became furious and decided to break into Cao Rulin's residence. They realized they had become outcasts in their own land due to the repeated diplomatic setbacks of the Chinese government; the notorious official Cao was involved in all those proceedings.

The marchers turned north on Fugui Jie, then on to Dong Chang'an Jie, through Mishi Dajie, Shidaren Hutong, Dayang Yibin Hutong and up to Zhaojia Lou, where Cao lived.

Fugui Jie has been renamed Nan Gong'an Jie; Mishi Dajie is now Dongdan Bei Dajie; and Shidaren Hutong has become Waijiaobu Jie, or Street of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. In 1912 up to 1928, the Northern Warlords Government set up their Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the street, and the ministry after the foundation of the People's Republic was once located there, too.

Cao refused to face the protesters, so the students set fire to his house on Zhaojia Lou and lynched another notorious official, Zhang Zongxiang. Afterwards, some students were arrested. A month later, under intense public pressure, the Northern Warlords Government removed from power Cao, Zhang and another official, Lu Zongyu. The students who

were arrested were subsequently released.

Zhaojia Lou was located in a hutong on the north side of Chang'an Jie Dong. It was a large courtyard with three divisions and four entrances, and it was designed according to both Chinese and Western architecture. After the fire, 11 of its 50 rooms were reported burned.

In 1950, the residence was torn down in favor of a new building. The Zhaojialou Hotel now stands on the site of Cao's old house, but there can be found a marker reading, "the Razed Zhaojia Lou."

Getting to Waijiaobu Jie: Take bus 24 or 674 to Waijiaobu Jie stop

Getting to Zhaojialou Hotel: Take Subway Line 1 to Tiananmen West station, or take bus 10, 37, 52, 728 or 802 to Tiananmen Xi, then walk to Zhaojialou Hotel



Wusi Dajie, where Hong Lou is located, was originally named Shatan Bei Jie.



A triangle-shaped monument at Democracy Square is on the east side of Hong Lou.

Photos by Jason Wang



The former building of the Chatered Bank on Dongjiao Min Xiang was built in 1918.



The Zhaojialou Hotel now stands on the site of Cao Rulin's old residence, which was set fire during the protests.



Dongjiao Min Xiang, one of the oldest hutongs in Beijing, was the biggest embassy district in 1919.

CFP Photos

Dress for success

ClarkMorgan Corporate Training
Beijing Guangzhou Hong Kong Nanjing Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Tianjin
www.clarkmorgan.com admin@clarkmorgan.com Free call: 800 820 5501

By Morry Morgan

Your new office is beautiful. Solid wood flooring leads visitors from the polished stainless-steel elevators to the shiny marble reception desk. Opposite, plush Italian-leather sofas complement a huge canvas painting. The modern lighting is bright but easy on the eye. Your corporate image consultants were expensive, but they have created a spectacular first impression. And then you see the receptionist. She is chewing gum and is wearing sequined jeans and a bright orange sweater that reads "BABY."

Sound familiar?



Scenarios like the one above are increasingly common, as corporate headquarters, thousands of kilometers from China's cities, throw their money at new mainland-based regional offices, but neglect the most fundamental factor – human behavior. By this I mean both verbal and non-verbal communication

"But I don't see the customer!" some cry, "I'm behind the scenes."

Well, maybe you do not see a customer, but how can you be sure that they do not see you? No doubt you use the same elevator and front entrance as your company's customers, and so, without knowing it, you are part of the corporate image.

Companies should beware of having double standards with respect to dress code. Discontent may develop when frontline staff are required to invest in formal attire, while their "behind the scenes" colleagues are not. What's more, having two standards of dress may result in frontline staff gradually dressing down. Before you know it, "BABY" sweaters are the norm.

And that means no more Casual Fridays. These special days have been known to evolve into Casual Thursday

& Friday, and then Casual Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Before you know it, you have a Casual Week. Millions of yuan spent on your company's image goes to waste.

Changing you and your staff's clothing must be a simultaneous effort. If you walk into work wearing knee-high boots, fishnet tights and a leather miniskirt, then it is going to be hard to encourage other staff to comply. To make sure people comply, you will have to create a list of acceptable and unacceptable clothing and adhere to it.

The good news is that once you get most of your staff dressing professionally, your company will reach critical mass. Slower to conform staff will follow their lead, and any new staff will automatically accept the dress code.

And on a personal level, no matter what the job – Finance, HR, Sales or intern – one should never dress casual at work. If you are a corporate climber then you should always look sharp. You might be the lowest block on the totem pole today, but you could be the senior manager of tomorrow: dress like one. You will make it easier for senior management to imagine you on their level.



CFP Photo

Dining

Taste at Gloria



Atrium Cafe is introducing Taste at Gloria, a new a la carte menu. Besides authentic Western dishes, it also

will serve traditional Southeast Asian dishes like Thai Beef Salad, Vietnamese Spring Rolls, Hainan Chicken Rice and Thai Pineapple Fried Rice. Don't miss out on healthy Chinese dishes like Steamed Fresh Scallops, Steamed Chicken with Preserved Meats and Sago and Mango Soup. Refreshments include

Hong Kong Milk Tea, Malaysia Milk Tea and Tangerine Tea with Honey.

Where: Atrium Cafe, Gloria Plaza Hotel, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6515 8855 ext. 2212

Heavenly Dim Sum for Moms

Show your respect and affection: All mothers are entitled to a 50 percent discount.

Where: Yao Chi Cantonese Restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 10

Cost: 128 yuan net per person

Tel: 6530 9383

Yellowstone Weekend

There's no better way to enjoy your



spring and summer weekend than with a sumptuous and unlimited open-air barbecue on a terrace with live music by The Jamm band from the Philippines.

Where: Yellowstone Restaurant & Bar, Crowne Plaza Park View Wuzhou Beijing, 8 Beichen Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday, 6-9:30 pm, endless flow from 5 pm Draught & A BBQ Indulgence

Cost: 298 yuan net BBQ and draft beer, 198 yuan net BBQ and soft drinks
Tel: 6481 7000

Aviation

British Airways Student Package Available

British Airways is extending to China its popular student package that offers special fares and double baggage to students bound for study in the UK. Passengers must show a valid student visa. All fares exclude taxes, fees and fuel surcharges. The limit of 46 kilograms of baggage applies to British Airways flights only.

When: departure from Beijing or Shanghai before March 31, 2010

Cost: from 3,380 yuan (single fares), from 5,190 yuan (return fares)

Tel: 5879 7544 or 021 6375 8385

Fly Singapore Airlines and stay in Singapore for 8 yuan

Singapore Airlines, together with the Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Changi Airport, has a new Fabulous Singapore Stopover Package that includes one night in Singapore for 8 yuan.

Other goodies include a 50 percent dining discount in designated food outlets at select hotels, a free SingTel Pre-paid Mobile hi!Card that customers can use to make calls and Singapore Airlines Boarding Pass Privileges, which offer discounts on shopping, dining, sightseeing tours, tourist attractions and car rentals. Customers must present their Singapore Airlines boarding passes to get the discount.

When: Until September 30

(By Sun Feng)

Hotel

First Fairmont hotel in China

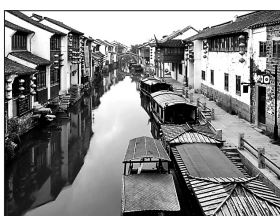


Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, a global hospitality leader with a worldwide reputation for excellence, is making its landmark entry into China at the opening of the Fairmont Beijing.

Where: Fairmont Beijing, 8 Yong'an Dong Li, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8511 7777

Weekend Getaway



Shangri-La Suzhou presents a special Weekend Getaway package. Guests will have an opportunity to enjoy a carefree weekend while experiencing Shangri-La's renowned hospitality in Suzhou. The package includes a buffet breakfast for two at Cafe Soo, complimentary use of the gym and indoor swimming pool, com-

plimentary broadband Internet access and late check-out before 4 pm.

Where: Shangri-La Hotel Suzhou, 168 Tayuan Lu, Suzhou National New and Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Suzhou

When: Until December 31 (Fridays and Saturdays only)

Cost: from 788 yuan per night (subject to a 15 per cent service charge)

Tel: 512 6808 0168

Best New Hotel

The Hilton Beijing Wangfujing was voted Best New Hotel in Beijing in the TTG China Travel Awards 2009. The award was presented to Hotel General Manager Nils-Arne Schroeder at the recent ceremony in Shanghai.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Watch out for monkey business

By Jin Zhu

When I was new in Beijing four years ago, I frequently went on expeditions around the city to become more familiar with my new home. I usually walked or hopped on the subway, which I still find the fastest and most convenient public transport.

While I was on the train one day, listening to songs on my MP3 player, I got startled by a tap on my shoulder. When I turned around, I saw a girl of about 10 years old, standing behind me with a smile.

"What's up?" I said.

The girl silently took out a doll from her bag, then handed me a card that read: "I am a deaf-mute girl. Please support fundraising activities for the disabled. Just by spending 2 yuan on the doll, we will feel the warmth of your friendship and your loving care."

Since it was for a good cause, I bought the doll. I followed her with an admiring gaze as she walked away, thinking how she persevered to earn an honest living despite her disability.

A few weeks later, I saw the girl again on the subway. I recognized her right away, likely because of the deep impression she left on me. That time around, she had several companions.

She stood before a passenger, took out a doll similar to the one she offered me, and showed him the card.

He signaled to her with his hands; it turned out he was also deaf-mute and spoke to her in sign language. To my astonishment, the girl stepped back with a horrified look on her face. Then she got off at the next station.

"That girl must be a cheat. She was given away when she met a real deaf-mute person," a woman beside me muttered.

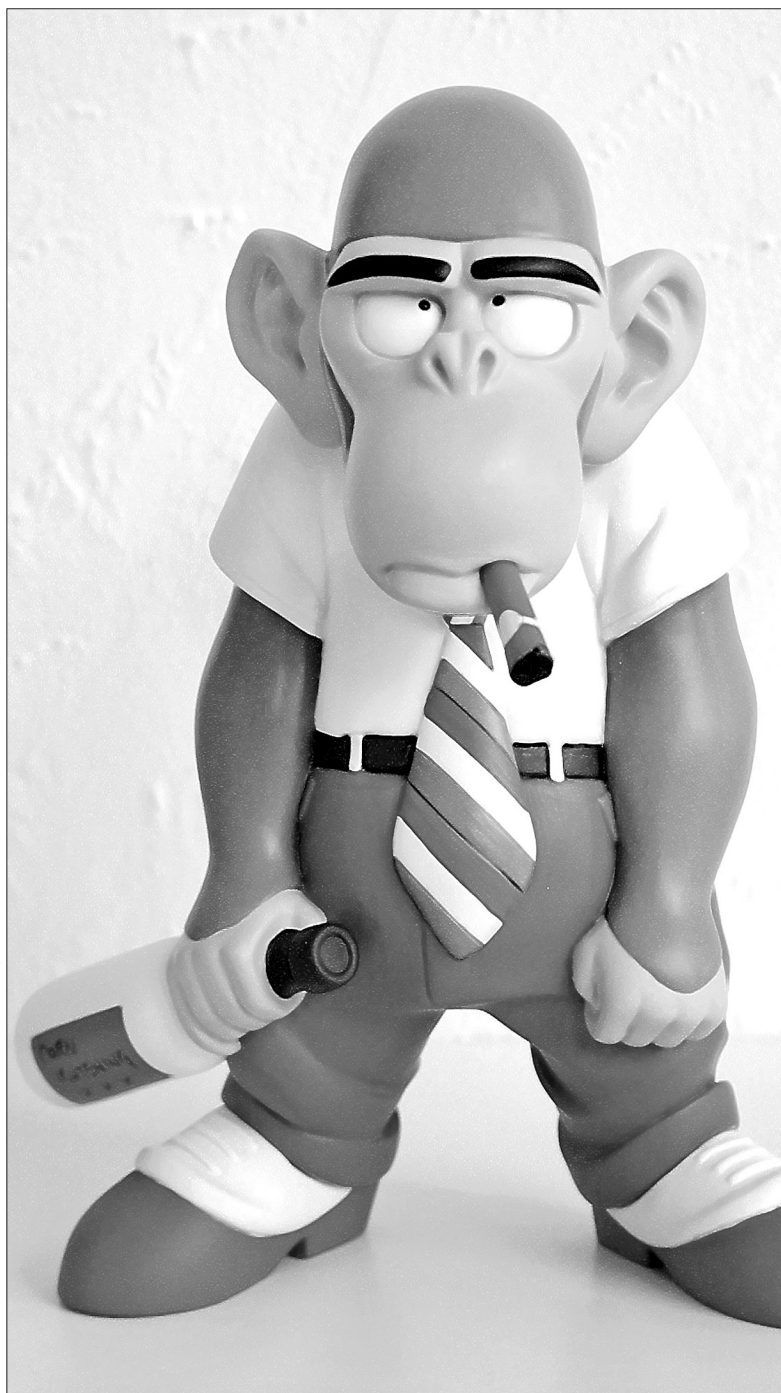
That evening, I met up with Joshua, a good friend from the States. I was still feeling unhappy after I realized the girl had made a fool of me.

"Don't take such matters to heart. It may have been monkey business, but I'm still proud of your big heart," Joshua said.

"You mean she was so clever like a monkey?" I said.

Joshua slapped his forehead with a laugh. "I didn't mean to say she was clever. What I meant was that her behavior was deceitful. In English, 'monkey business' is used to describe dirty tricks, like monkeys would play on humans."

"Well, from now on, I should learn how to distinguish between people who truly need help and those who are just doing monkey business," I said with a sigh.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Present uses presently to rub



Photo by Tiffany Tan

By Tiffany Tan

This has been one of the most unforgettable Chinglish phrases I've ever encountered because what it is saying is so simple yet the English words aren't easy to find. I remember chuckling while drinking the soy milk.

I had the good luck of buying this particular brand after I learned in Chinese class the various grammatical uses of the word *xian*, popularly known to for-

eigners as "now" or "first" (in the order of executing an act).

In this label, *xian* is used to mean one action in the present leading immediately to another. So the phrase basically says that the soy milk is freshly made; it is produced as customers order or "extracted on demand." The translation just does not sound as crisp and as concise as the Chinese. So I give a point to the Chinese language on this one.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Study

This is such a common word we can hardly get it wrong. However, we should still be careful in using it. For instance, to refer to a boy whose time is fully occupied by studying, some Chinese people would say, "He is occupied by study, study and study again." This is Chinglish as the word "study" also means "dwelling on something in thought; to mediate and to ponder." For better English, simply say, "He is occupied by hard school work."

2. For sell

"Sell" is a verb and cannot take a preposition before it. Obviously, the writer has confused the word with its noun form "sale." It is perfectly right to say "for sale" or "on sale," meaning "offered for purchase; to be sold." You can also have "liquidation sale," "bankruptcy sale," "outlet sale" or "removal sale." Outlet sale means a bargain sale to dispose of goods at the end of a season or a year; removal sale means a bargain sale brought about by the closure of a business. But you definitely cannot say "for sell."

3. There are reasons he starts the heliport.

The problem with this sentence is the linking of ideas. The part that says "there are reasons" is not connected by proper grammar to the part that says "he starts the heliport." If we say, "There are reasons why he started the heliport," it is all right because the two units are linked by "why." A better way is to say, "There are reasons for him to start the heliport."

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. Study

It is interesting that Professor Zhu pointed this out, because just a couple of weeks ago, I saw a draft of a newspaper article written by a Chinese reporter that used the same sentence structure. It was an awkward line that jumped out of the page. But if the writer is obsessed with repetition, this is an option: "All he does is study, study, study." If used sparingly, repetition is a device that can emphasize an idea. You can also express the same thought by saying, "He is consumed by his studies."

2. For sell

The writer's mistake here reminded me of related words "sellable" and "salable." Just to make English appear more mind-boggling to non-native speakers, in this case, both words mean "fit to be offered for sale; marketable." I'm also wondering why there had to be two such synonyms that differ only by two letters.

3. There are reasons he starts the heliport.

Apart from honest-to-goodness grammatical mistakes, I wonder how much of the contemporary world's "abbreviated language" is the influence of our fast-food and text-messaging culture. Although the sentence is grammatically wrong, the irony is that it can be easily understood; people nowadays speak in pretty much the same way.

How to Lose Friends & Alienate People

(2008)

Movie of the week

The British actor, comedian, writer, film producer and director Simon Pegg is back again. Pegg first rose to prominence in the lead role of Shaun in *Shaun of the Dead*, a romantic zombie comedy in 2004, and came back again in 2007's *Hot Fuzz*. As usual, Pegg plays cringy character who makes you want to hide behind your cushion in embarrassment for him.

There is also Kirsten Dunst in the movie, and Megan Fox who was thrown in as the entertainment industry's hottie of the week. But the movie was hardly perfect. The best moments came in the middle, with a couple of laughs. The ending falls into the pervasive Hollywood stereotype "one good return deserves another."

Synopsis

Sidney Young is a disillusioned intellectual who adores and despises the world of celebrity, fame and glamor. His alternative magazine, *Post Modern Review*, delivers zingers to media-obsessed stars and bucks trends. When Young is offered a job at the diametrically opposed conservative New York based *Sharps* magazine, it's something of a shock. Thus begins Sidney's descent into success. His gradual move from derided outsider to confidante of starlet Sophie Maes and a love affair with colleague Alison Olsen will either make him or break him. The movie is adapted from a novel of the same name by Toby Young.

Scene 1

(Once in New York, Sidney meets his new boss Clayton Harding.)

Clayton Harding (C): What the f--k are you wearing?

Sidney Young (S): Do you like it? I've got you one, actually.

C: Thanks. Sit down. How was your flight?

S: Yeah, it was good. Thanks for the business-class tickets, Clay.

C: That was a mistake. And don't call me Clay.

S: Can we smoke?

C: We? No.

S: I'm actually a big fan of your early, funnier stuff. *Snipe* magazine was really good. You've actually been a big influence on me. And I think together we can really inject some of that *Snipe* spirit into *Sharps*. I've got some ideas, actually, if you'd like ...

C: You think you've arrived (1),

don't you? Hate to break it to you (2), but you're only in the first room. In about a year, maybe longer, you'll discover a secret doorway at the back of the first room that leads to the second. And in time, if you're lucky, you'll discover another doorway in the back of the second room that leads to the third. There are seven rooms altogether. You're in the first. I'm in the seventh. Don't you forget it.

S: Can I use the bathroom in the seventh? 'Cause the one in the first really smells.

C: Which leads us to the subject of your sense of humor. I had a look through your magazine here.

S: What did you think?

C: Felt it was kind of snarky (3) and bitter and witless. I'm going to try you out in the "I Spy" section. You're going to report to Lawrence Maddox.



Scene 2

(Sidney kills Sophie Maes' pet dog Cuba by accident and Alison helps him cover. The two meet in a bar. Sidney is carrying a bowl of dead fish.)

Alison Olsen (A): Oh, my God. You're, like a serial killer.

S: No, no, no. That wasn't me. Look, I laid him to rest. Cuba. I took him out to the ...

A: I don't want to know!

S: You might not want your bag back.

A: Stop!

S: Sorry. Also, just the whole, you know, not telling them thing. I just wanted to say that I appreciate that because you didn't have to do it. And a lot of people probably wouldn't have done it, but ... Why didn't you?

A: You don't need my help to screw up (4) here, Sidney. I mean, the only thing you make are mistakes. And stains.

S: Hey, listen. Let me ask you, what is it with this book? You're always writing in it. What is it, like a diary? Am I in it?

A: It's a novel I'm working on. All right?

S: Wow.

A: Yeah, go ahead, I know. I'm a walking cliché (5).

S: No, not at all. That's very impressive. And you're writing that by hand?

A: Yeah. It's ... I don't know, it keeps it separate from the magazine work. Makes it seem special.

S: You're full of surprises, sister.

A: You know what I don't understand? You're so desperate to get a story in the magazine, so why wouldn't you play ball with (6) Eleanor? Write the puff piece (7)?

S: Well, I just resent being bribed to gush sycophantically about a star. I choose to gush sycophantically.

Scene 3

(Alison gets drunk at a party and Sidney has to bring her home. When he gets there, he finds out his father has come to New York.)

S: Of course you don't know who that is. You don't know who anyone is. You thought Brad Pitt was a cave in Yorkshire. The thing is most people do know who that is, all right? And most people wouldn't think a journalist hanging out with celebrities like that was a disappointment.

Richard Young (R): I don't think you're a disappointment, Sidney. I've never thought that. I'm sorry. I ... I didn't mean to upset you ...

S: Things haven't been that great, actually, Dad. I don't know why. I can't seem to get ahead.

R: Einstein said, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather to become a man of value." The young lady in the bedroom there, Alison, she wouldn't have anything to do with your desire to stay on, would she?

S: No, we're just friends. Anyway, she says that New York women don't go for losers.

R: I suppose not. But Alison is from Port Huron, isn't she?

Vocabulary

- arrived:** here it is used to mean Sidney has joined the ranks of the influential media
- break something to someone:** to disclose news or information someone does not want to hear
- snarky:** snide or sarcastic, usually stemming from irritation
- screw up:** to make a mess of
- walking cliché:** someone who has fallen completely into a stereotype
- play ball with:** to cooperate with someone
- puff piece:** an news article full of exaggerated praise that ignores or belittles opposing views

(By Wang Yu)

